THE *Spaniſh* and *French* HISTORY: OR, *Love out of Seaſon.* A NOVEL.

No leſs Curious than Pleaſant.

Out of French.

This may be Printed.
June 5. 1689. *Rob. Midgley.*

LONDON:
Printed for *William Hull*, in *Fleet-lane*. 1689.

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Notes

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Jan. 1689. Reb. Midgley.

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TO THE READER.

Midst the Embroilments of War, and the Disputes touching Titles to Crowns, nothing seems more out of Season, *than Discourses about the Intrigues of* LOVE, *which appears at such time to have resign'd its place to Hatred, Revenge, Cruelty, and Ambition. But if we consider the firm Friendship between* MARS *and* VENUS, *and reflect how the greatest* Machiavelians *and* Martialists *have ever been most ready to subject themselves to the Empire of Beauty, we shall find, that* Love *is never more* in,

than when the Vulgar think it most out of Season. *If therefore you desire to understand the Cause, that made our Author give the extraordinary Title of* Love out of Season *to the following Novel, your best way will be to Read it all over, and if then you find any reason for his so doing, you are requested to impart it to his Translator.*

T H

THE *Spaniſh* and *French* HISTORY: OR, Love out of Seaſon.

AFTER the Royal Alliance, which was celebrated at *St. John de Luz*, between the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*, by the cares of their two firſt Miniſters, the Count of *Fonſaldaign*, a Man of rare and ſingular Merit, was choſen to go Ambaſſadour into *France*. He brought along with him from *Ma-*

drid a young Lord, who charmed by our Liberty, was almoſt become a natural *French man*, during the time he had been in our Court with *Pimentel*, who ſo happily negotiated there the Peace, which was afterwards ſpread all over *Europe*.

The Relations of this young Marqueſs, whom the Name of *Medina* elevated to ſo high a degree of favour in the Court of *Spain*, judging it diſagreeable to the auſterity of their Politicks for to permit the young Man to return into *France*, made a difficulty of conſenting thereunto; but by the Importunities and Prayers of all his Friends, he at laſt ſucceeded in his deſign; and they believed that he could not corrupt the Manners of his Nation, being with ſo Illuſtrious a *Spaniard*, as the Count of *Forſaldaign*.

Don Juan, who was at that time Governour of the *Low-Countries*, had reasons to retire into *Spain*; and the Count of *Fonsaldaign*, worthy to succeed so great a Prince, gloriously finished the Quality of Ambassador, and departed to take possession of that fair Government, whither the Marquess of *Medina* would not follow him, being retained by the Amity which was between him and me, and by the true Pleasures, which *Paris* alone inspires even into those, that are the least susceptible thereof.

The Count of *Fonsaldaign* had at his departure very much recommended him to me; and his consideration, joined to the Acquaintance, the young *Spaniard* and I had contracted at *Madrid*, made me employ mine endeavours to pleasure him, procuring him by

my self and my Friends, all the Divertisements that might render this Abode agreeable to him, it being the duty of my acknowledgement to serve him for a Guide in the Court of *France*, he having so obligingly been mine in that of *Spain*.

The long familiarity, we had together, had pretty well instructed me in his Humour; he had nothing of the *Spaniard*, and that fierceness, which renders those of that Nation incompatible with ours, was no part of his Character. Having left him amorous, althô always moderate in that Passion, I had an extream impatience to know of him the success of his Amours; I told him, I was very much surprized, that I had not in the commerce of our Letters learnt the conclusion of his Marriage with the young Countess of *Carlile*,

Carlile, Maid of Honour to the Queen. He answered me coldly enough, That there were many reasons both on the one side, and the other, that had deferred the execution thereof; but that the most considerable were his Inclinations being too much *French*, and an indifference, approaching even to contempt, for the displeasing *Spanish* Customs of meriting a Mistresses Favour by riding bare-headed by the Boot of a Coach, by Serenades, by the dumb Discourse of the Eyes before a Window, by deep Sighing at a Gate, in fine, by all the Grimaces, that must be made in Publick, for to appear in that place a veritable Lover. " Her Love, *continued he*, " appearing unto me rather a Love " of Interest, than a Love of Ami- " ty, I knew, that it was to run too " great an hazard to love a fierce

" Miſtreſs, who had ſo often van-
" ted to me her Birth, her Merit,
" and the augmentation of For-
" tune her Marriage, would pro-
" cure me, making me five times
" a Grandee of *Spain*: The Re-
" proaches of a Good, which as
" yet I only poſſeſt in Idea, much
" cool'd my Love. I acknowledge
" that ſhe had touched me, and
" that I felt for her motions, which
" produced a ſecret Satisfaction in
" my Soul: To tell you, that ſhe
" was fair, agreeable, and witty,
" is to ſay too little of her; but
" for to give all her great Quali-
" ties their due, I am obliged to
" confeſs, that ſhe had Charms,
" which could not be expreſſed,
" and from which it was impoſſi-
" ble to defend one's ſelf. I be-
" lieved that I ſolely poſſeſt her
" Heart, ſhe perſwaded me ſo,
" and I was even almoſt convinced
" of

" of it; but the cares of a Page,
" faithful, vigilant, and who loves
" me, diſabuſed me of that Error,
" which held the place of Truth
" in my Soul; which makes me
" well know, that Women love
" only for their own ſakes, and
" that inſtead of augmenting
" the Glory of a Lover, they ve-
" ry often diminiſh his Reputati-
" on, for to content their Deſires,
" whether unjuſt or legitimate.

" As far then as I can compre-
" hend, you love her no more, *ſaid*
" *I*; What? could that Paſſion,
" which ſo many rare Qualities
" of Body and Mind, joined with
" the advantages of Fortune,
" had planted in your Heart, be
" ſo ſoon baniſhed from thence?
" You have an admirable Secret,
" and very particular, for to de-
" fend your ſelf from the Con-
" ſequences of Love, and ſo eaſily

" to

" to resist its violence: For by
" your own acknowledgment you
" loved the young Countess of
" *Carlile*, and at present you tell
" me, that you no longer love
" her; I doubt, that this is a dis-
" guize, and that you wrap up
" some Mystery in all, that you
" relate to me. I pretend through
" the experience, I have in the
" World, to a little penetration;
" but I confess, that it is very
" much limited in this conjuncture,
" and that I cannot believe, that
" a Passion, so perfectly setled, as
" yours, has been of so short du-
" ration. Love is a sort of Di-
" sease, which hath oftentimes
" possession of us, when we think
" our selves the least assaulted
" thereby: Being so much your
" Friend, as I am, I should be in
" despair at this change, if it were
" true, but I perswade my self the
" con-

"contrary, and that your separa-
"tion diminiſhes not your tender-
"neſs, and abates nothing of the
"Paſſion you owe to this agreeable
"Miſtreſs.

Our Diſcourſe was interrupted by the Viſit of the Mareſchal *de G*----, who came to look for the *Spaniard* with me, having not found him at home; he omitted not any occaſion, but even ſought frequent ones to divert him, deſiring by the exceſs of theſe Civilities to recompenſe all thoſe, which he had received of his Relations at *Madrid*, when he was there, to diſpoſe all things for the Marriage.

The time of the King's ariſing drawing nigh, we went together to the *Louvre*, where we ſtaid not long, becauſe we were expected elſewhere, and had given our Word. The beauty of this day

invited

invited us to an Hunting Match, which our Friends propoſed to us; we accepted it more willingly than an engagement among Ladies, where we were expected with preparation: For ſeeing the young Marqueſs very averſe from Women by the Diſcourſe, he held with me thereof, I would willingly let ſome days ſlip without propoſing to him the viſiting of any one. Our departure could not be ſo ſecret, but that it was known to ſome Ladies, who came to join us in the Plain of St. *Denis*: This unforeſeen Company troubled his pleaſure, and even limited the continuance of our Hunting. After they were mounted upon Horſes, which were led thither for them, one of the leaſt Huntreſſes, but of the greateſt Gallants, drawing near to me, told me, That I was happy in having the company

of

of the young *Spaniard*, that many others (leaving us in the equivocation of the Sex) would envy me such an happiness. He, perceiving our Conversation, with so good a grace feigned himself to be carried away by his Horse, that we, finding our selves alone, and the last, hasted up to the body of the Hunters, where the Countess, susceptible of Love, found no more all that day the moment, which might favour the design, she had of entertaining the young Stranger. The design of our Hunting was interrupted by the surprize of our Ladies, all turned to a Conversation, that was general, altho every one of them had proposed to her self a particular one. The Days were short, and the Night, stealing on insensibly, obliged the Ladies speedily to take Coach: We found our selves together a-

gain,

gain, and re-assuming the pleasure to see our selves alone: "Without "lying, *said I to him*, you are a "perfect Courtier: For you so a-"greeably conceal your discon-"tents, that I can assure you, "there is not one of these Ladies, "but believes that you have for "each of them in particular at "least very much esteem; and "were I not my self acquainted "with your disgust, I should be "so perswaded as well as they: "I have seen them so charmed "with your Discourses, that they "have taken the false appearances "of your Sincerity, for constant "Verities, and all your Respects "for infallible Marks of Love. "They are then, *replied he to me*, "of a very facile belief: What? "Is the uttering of the word of "Love, of Amity, of Tenderness, "of Respect, sufficient to make

"them

" them believe, one is enamoured " of them? Without lying, I " thought not the *French* Ladies " so susceptible, I left this Chara- " cter to our *Spanish* Dames, and " esteemed yours too dextrous, " and too witty, not to suspect of " an ingenious Artifice the Civi- " lity, which I rendred to their un- " known Merit.

" Methinks, *said I to him*, you " explicate your self clearly e- " nough, for me to conceive, that " your Indifference goes even to " Hatred: For whatever pro- " position our Friends, or I, make " unto you for the Pleasures of " Gallantry, your Heart consents " not thereunto but with pain, " and with a complacency, which " makes us manage with discreti- " on the inquietude, that this cau- " ses you. But tell me, I beseech " you, the motive of this extream " disgust;

" diſguſt; methinks our Familia-
" rity renders me worthy enough
" of your Secret; ſhould it be,
" *ſaid I to him*, ſome Contempt;
" ſome Infidelity. At this word
he fetcht a deep ſigh, which ſhew-
ed the trouble of his Soul; and
wholly admiring whence I had the
knowledge thereof, he ingenuouſly
owned it to me, and engaging
me to a new Confidence, he
faithfully, and in few words rela-
ted to me the Story of his Mi-
ſtreſſes Treaſon.

The

The History of the Marquess of Medina, *and of the Young Countess of* Carlile.

"FOrtune and the Merit of "my Ancestors caused me "to be born a great Lord: my "Name is sufficiently known in "all *Europe*, and the Employs, "which my Family even at this "time possesses in the Court of "*Spain*, are veritable proofs of "what I say. My Quality con-"straining me to a great Alliance, "I was obliged to follow rather "the inclination of my Friends, "than the motion of mine own "Heart; which tended not to-"wards Marriage. They cast "their eyes upon the young "Countess of *Carlile*, Maid of

"Honour

" Honour to the Queen, and pro-
" poſed her to me, as a Subj ct
" worthy of my Love, and bud-
" ding Fortune. They believed
" me happy in ſuch a Choice, and
" I eſteemed my ſelf very unhap-
" py through the ill Conſequences,
" which I foreſaw from thence,
" and which I have experimented
" from her Humour and Con-
" duct. Not being able therefore
" to reſiſt the deſire of my Rela-
" tions, and feeling my ſelf neceſ-
" ſitated to love their Choice, I
" began to love her with a Love
" of conſtraint. The matter was
" too violent to be followed with
" amity and ſweetneſs; neverthe-
" leſs, in the time, that my diffi-
" culties appeared to be the moſt
" invincible, from a Love of ne-
" ceſſity, I came inſenſibly to a
" tender and voluntary Love, pro-
" poſing to my ſelf no greater

" Glory,

"Glory, than to perswade her,
"that I was truly touched; my
"sole Passion was a care to please
"her; whose Heart, I believed,
"that I possest without reserve,
"altho' I had a great number of
"Rivals. While that Love made
"me frame new Designs to be per-
"fectly happy, and that I began
"to enjoy the calm of true Lovers,
"Fortune, the Enemy to my Re-
"pose, troubled my Soul with an
"extream Jealousie, and so much
"the more cruel, as the subject
"thereof was true. Not to tire
"you with repeating an infinity
"of importune Circumstances,
"the remembrance whereof is still
"so sensible to me, I will tell you,
"that my suspitions were fully
"cleared by the address of my
"Page, who, confirming to me
"the Report, that was current in
"the Queen's Family, of the se-

"cret

"cret Intrigue of the Marquess of
"*Moncade* with the young Coun-
"tess of *Carlile*, proposed to me
"a Stratagem, worthy his Love;
"in which he made me hope of
"succeeding. *Moncade* was a young
"Blockhead, handsome enough,
"without Heart, without Wit,
"of a great Birth and Fortune,
"but of an indifferent Merit. My
"Page having often seen one of
"the young Countess of *Carlile*'s
"Pages go to *Moncade*'s, judged,
"that this correspondence might
"be well caused by some Gallan-
"try, which they entertained by
"reciprocal Letters; and being
"desirous to intercept one of
"them, that might discover to
"me, what nevertheless I desired
"not to know; he secretly pro-
"cured himself a Livery of *Mon-*
"*cade*'s colour, and watching one
"Evening about twi-light for this

"unskil'd

" unskil'd Messenger of Love, told
" him without affectation, That
" his Lord had sent him to meet
" him, and to receive the Letter,
" that he brought from his Lady,
" the young Countess of *Carlile*;
" that his Lord would see her the
" same Night, and would tell her
" the reasons thereof. My Page
" received it of this credulous
" Bearer, who by his facility
" well shewed, that he was not yet
" much experimented in the com-
" merce wherein his Lady employ-
" ed him: I happily profited by
" his ingenuity. I have kept, *con-*
" *tinued the Marquess*, this dolo-
" rous Token of my Unhappiness,
" and the Countess's Treachery:
" Since you understand *Spanish*,
" spare me, I beseech you, the trou-
" ble of Reading it, and renewing
" in my Heart so unpleasing a
" Remembrance.

The

The LETTER of the Countess of *Carlile*, to the Marquess of *Moncade*.

I Compassionate the displeasure, you have of quitting Madrid, *for to go join the Army at* Estremadura. *This unforeseen Blow kills me: Go then, since it must be so, and assure your self, that your Absence shall not diminish the Esteem and Tenderness, I have for you. I reiterate not the inviolable Oaths, which my Heart has made to you: Render your self continually more worthy of its choice: I will dearly conserve the remembrance thereof: I know how to love, what pleases me: You have sensibly touched me: Judge after this of my Sentiments.*

" This

" This Letter gave my Soul a mortal wound, and I had need of all my Reason, and the force of my Spirit, to conceal so sensible a Grief, and of which the Contempt was my just Vengeance. Go to now, Sir, after such an Adventure will you incessantly speak to me to be amorous, and to entertain a Commerce of Gallantry with Ladies, the most austere of which is often the most faithless in matter of Love?

" I blamed you er'e-while, *said I to him*, for having too easily passed from Love to Indifference; but I now pity you, since you have acquainted me with the true cause, that obliged you thereunto, and I take all the part, that may be taken, in the discontent you have thereby: But in fine, there is no Grief but

" may be cured by time and rea-
" ſon, our Repoſe depends almoſt
" continually upon our ſelves.
" The Oblivion of what is paſt,
" and your own Glory, inſtead o
" hindring you to love for the fu
" ture, ought in my opinion to
" oblige you thereunto: Since it
" is true, that no Woman, how
" falſe ſoever ſhe be, does with
" out grief ſee her Lover take o
" ther Chains. Love is the em
" ploy of gentile Souls: To live
" without this amuſement, is to
" live without Pleaſure, and with
" out Reaſon: What Oath ſoever
" you have made for the renoun
" cing it, it is ſufficient you have
" been once a Lover, to make
" you always capable of becoming
" ſo; and I have ſeen greater
" Malecontents than you, that
" would have been very much of
" fended at the continuance o
" thei

" their Despair. All Women are
" not Infidels; and I know many
" Dutchesses, Mareschallesses, Mar-
" chionesses, and Countesses, who,
" if they had a Subject so worthy
" of their Passion, as you are,
" would be faithful and constant.
" I will have you of my Opinion
" herein, and will shew you four
" or five Ladies, with whom, I
" am certain, you will be charm-
" ed: You have seen them at
" Court, but not at their own
" Habitations: I take upon me
" to warrant the pleasure you will
" receive in visiting them.

" Good God! *replied the* Spa-
" niard, Always Women? Can-
" not one divert one's self without
" them? And must one incessant-
" ly depend upon their caprice,
" and the bizarrery of their Hu-
" mour? Pray, Sir, dispense with
" me, at least for some time, from

" engaging in a Commerce, which " I have ſo much reaſon to dread.

Some days after, ſeeing a little moderation in his tranſports, I propoſed to him, with the Duke of *R*-- to viſit the Dutcheſs of *M*-- and the Marchioneſs of *L. B.* The Friendſhip, which the young *Spaniard* had for me, made him not dare to refuſe me any thing: He knew alſo the ſincerity of my Sentiments for him. We were at the Dutcheſs's of *M*---, who had teſtified to me in the *Louvre*, an extream deſire to ſee and entertain him: We met not with her: She was at Court: So our Viſit was deferr'd till her return. We made uſe of the interval to viſit the Marchioneſs of *L. B.* She was upon a Couch in her Cloſſet: Her Native Beauty and her Dreſs were that day very fit to make the Stranger renounce his Reſolutions.

Our

Our Diſcourſes were almoſt of all things in general, and principally of the unpleaſant and incommodious manner of making Love in *Spain.* This Theme of Love was very diſpleaſing to the young Marqueſs, and I heard him mutter between his Teeth againſt Love, and ſay with a low Voice, "What? "always talking of Love? One "muſt very much love the Pra- "ctice of it, and have it furiouſly "in the Heart, to have it ſo often "in the Mouth: And interrupting the Diſcourſe, he ſpake of the fair Weather, of the Pleaſure, we had this day had in walking, of the commodious Liberty, wherewith we live in *France*; at other times, to oblige the Lady, he diſcourſed of the greatneſs of her Birth, of the magnificence of her Habit and Furniture, but very ſparingly of her Beauty and Wit. In fine, the

Lady, naturally talkative, and who found herſelf in an humour to ſhew it to the young Cavalier, fell always upon the Chapter of Love, while the Marqueſs augmented all his Hate, to defend himſelf from it. The impatience, wherein I ſaw him, to be gone, and our Engagement to go to the Dutcheſs of *M*--- finiſhed our Viſit ſooner, than I deſired.

We were ſcarce got into my Coach, when he burſt forth into a laughter, that ſurprized me, and obliged me to laugh as faſt, as he, " And well, Sir, my good Friend, " *ſaid he briskly to me in* Spaniſh, " to what pleaſant Marchioneſs " have you brought me? Is ſhe " not ſome Ticket-Marchioneſs? " For ſhe would have over-much " perſwaded me, that ſhe was, for " to believe her Marquiſate of bet- " ter allay. Good God! What

a

" a Vanity! She inceſſantly in-
" terrupted the Converſation, to
" call her Pages, her Squires, her
" Gentlemen, her Grooms of the
" Chamber, and Officers of all
" Orders for Commiſſions; and
" of all this ſuperb Equipage there
" appeared but one only Lacquay,
" of a very good Phyſiognomy
" for his Ladies diſpoſition: Cer-
" tainly, if your Dutcheſs be of
" this Character, I ſhall not un-
" pleaſantly ſpend my day: Let
" us ſee her then, ſince we are en-
" gaged thereunto.

We cauſed the Coachman to make haſt, and came to her Houſe at the ſame time, that ſhe herſelf did, and very fortunately, ſince the *Spaniard* gave her his hand to help her out of the Coach. She entertained us at firſt with the little ſatisfaction, ſhe had had at Court, that ſhe had ſeen there

only diſguſting Faces of all ſorts; and that being as curious to find ſomething to her liking, as any Woman in the World, ſhe very rarely met with, what might ſatisfie her. "For you, Sir, *ſaid* "*ſhe to the* Spaniard, one is very "happy to ſee you, and much "more to enjoy you: You have "one of thoſe Airs of good Augu- "ry and Engagement, from which "one cannot defend one's ſelf; "but I believe alſo, that none re- "ſiſts it: We muſt not ask you "the Conqueſts, you have made "ſince your being in the Court of "*France*. Love is the Portion of "Perſons, ſo well accompliſhed, "as you are, both in Body and "Mind, and if I am not deceived, "you have a great inclination "thereunto; All thoſe, with whom "I have diſcourſed concerning "you, have the ſame thought,

"and

" and one ſhould be curious e-
" nough to know your fair In-
" trigues; but you are of a mo-
" deſt Nation, and which too
" much conceals theſe ſorts of
" Myſteries, fully to content our
" Curioſity: I will not alſo know
" any thing of what is paſt; I
" am contented with the future,
" and pretend, with the permiſſion
" of your Friend, who is alſo mine,
" to inſtruct you perhaps a little
" better, than he, in the humour
" of our Ladies: I will be your
" Confident, to give you Leſſons,
" for which you ſhall not be ſor-
" ry, and which will be neceſſary
" for you in our Court, and you
" ſhall ſee, that my School alone
" is worth many others.

As ſhe was in a readineſs and good Humor to proſecute her Diſcourſe, luckily for the *Spaniard*, whoſe Mind was upon the rack,

the Duke her Husband came in, who had newly learnt, that there was preparation againſt the ſame Evening for a great Party of Masks, at the Mareſchalleſſes of *L. M*---, who made a magnificent Supper. Without this favourable Conjuncture, I found the Marqueſs of *Medina* cruelly embarraſſed, how to anſwer the Dutcheſs: She is ſufficiently known to be dextrous, fine, and of very great Experience in the profoundeſt Myſteries of Love.

We Supt with the Duke, for to be of his Party; and as I gave Order to my Page for the bringing thither Masking-Habits, the *Spaniard* told me ſecretly, That he ſhould have nothing more to fear, ſince the Lady would have her Husband with her, and he hoped, that the Preſence of that Bugbear would deliver him from the

the confuſion, whereinto the preſſing Wit of the Dutcheſs had begun to put him. We came about Eleven a Clock to this great Aſſembly: The Comedy, the Ball, and the Magnificence of our Ladies charmed the Eyes, but not in the leaſt the Heart of our Marqueſs. He was known by the Marchioneſs of *L. B*--- whom we had lately quitted, who cauſing him to be obſerved by many others of her Sex, they ſpake to him things ſo obliging, and ſo capable to vanquiſh his Reſolution, that he needed all the force of his Reaſon, to ſupport with moderation the conſtraint of their amorous Propoſitions.

The Duke, whoſe Health permitted him not ſuch long Watchings, would retire. The Dutcheſs was not pleaſed with the ſpeedy Retreat; but not being able to avoid

avoid it, ſhe told us, that we ſhould paſs the reſt of the Night at her Houſe; and that we ſhould keep there our Midnight. The *Spaniard*, who had complained of a Meagrim, whereto he was ſubject, ſo fitly augmented the pain thereof; that it was neceſſary to take leave of the Dutcheſs, who counſelled him to go ſpeedily home, and remedy an evil, whereof ſhe found her ſelf ſenſible.

" You are happy, My Lord " Marqueſs, *ſaid I to him, when* " *we were come forth*, the Ladies " bewail your pains, without doubt " you pretended the Violence of " this, to judge of the tenderneſs " of my Lady Dutcheſs of *M*—— " I ſee well, it is ſhe that poſſeſſes " your Heart, I told you yeſter- " day, Love has its moments, as " well as other things; this Poſt " is glorious, the Inclination of

" the

" the Lady is ſtrong, and ſince you " have Wit, Fire, and the Quali- " ties, which ſhe loves, you may " with advantage make uſe of her " Paſſion.

The Heart of the *Spaniard* was inflexible, his Reſolution was ſtronger than all the feigned or true Reaſons, that I could oppoſe againſt it: He would not come into the Dutcheſs's Sentiments, although he found in her amiable Qualities: He ſware to me, That he was fully regained from Love, and that the great Secret for to augment his Hate thereof was, to think on the cruel Inquietudes, and all the Perfidies, that this Paſſion neceſſarily draws along with it: That it being in his Power to avoid all theſe Sufferings, he would render himſelf happy, and love only, what might contribute to his Repoſe, and his Felicity: that he

he would ſee the Dutcheſs at the Court, with the Queen, or with the Duke her Husband, always in Publick; but never in particular, for to avoid the occaſion of a publick declaration: That he would publiſh every-where the acknowledgment, he ought to her Civilities, that he would conſerve a profound Reſpect for her Beauty, a ſingular Eſteem for her Merit; but no Love for her Perſon. This was the Deſtiny of the Dutcheſs.

Amongſt the number of my beſt Friends, and whom I believed capable to inſpire Love into him, I had two left to ſhew him, whoſe Qualities of Body and Mind in every thing ſurpaſt the two others. The *Spaniard* was extreamly delighted in Play: *Ombre* is a *Spaniſh* Game, which begins to come in Faſhion at Court: He daily tormented

tormented me to make ſome Match thereat; but there being few perſons found in *France*, that can play it with the *Spaniards*, I could difficultly procure him perſons, skilful enough to give him this Pleaſure. Being one day with the Counteſs of *G*---, whom I had not ſeen a long time, and who was ſhe, to whom I intended to bring the young Marqueſs, we fell into a diſcourſe of Play. "To the "matter, *ſaid ſhe to me*, ſince I "ſaw you, I am grown ſo expert "at *Ombre*, that I can play with "the *Spaniards* themſelves.

"We ſhall then, *anſwered I*, "to morrow, Madam, ſee your "skill, I promiſe to bring you "one, and my ſelf will make the "third Gameſter.

Having asked me his Name, and if it were not that famous *Medina*, of whom there was ſo much talk among

among the Queen's Ladies, and every-where. I told her, it was: "Good God! *replied the Counteſs,* "I am told, he is ſo handſome, "and ſo charming, that one can- "not look upon him without "Love, and that it was obſerved "even lately at a Feaſt of the "Church, where the multitude "of our Reformed was extraordi- "nary, that they had their Eyes "always upon him, and their di- "ſtraction continued, during the "whole Service. Remember then, "Marqueſs, your Word: I will "expect you to morrow in ſuch an "Equipage, as is requiſite to pleaſe "thoſe of that Nation: Fail me "not, I beſeech you. As to the "reſt, I know your News, and in "what manner you govern this "young *Spaniſh* Lord: It is none "of your fault, that he has not "many Miſtreſſes, for you ſhew

"him

" him every-where; but they say,
" he is wiser than his Governour.
" I am your Friend, Marquess,
" and one, that deserve to be re-
" membred. Adieu, I say no
" more to you thereof.

It was late, when I made an end of my Visit, and not having seen the *Spaniard* that day, as soon as I came home, I sent my Page to him, to enquire his Health, and to acquaint him, that I would wait upon him the Morrow-morning about eleven a Clock: That he should not engage himself to any one, and that I had made a Match for the Afternoon, which would be to his satisfaction.

I had not been a moment in my Chamber, when one came to give me notice, that an extraordinary Courier parted the morrow for *Germany*. I was very glad to make use of this occasion for some

ſome Affairs, which imported me very much, in the Court of thoſe two Princes, to whom he was ſent. I ſpent all the Night in making my Diſpatches: I had ſcarce taken one moment of reſt, when the young Marqueſs, not having Patience to expect the Hour, I had appointed the day before, came to me: He awaked me againſt the Will of my Folks, and would not return, till I had diſcourſed him upon the ſubject of our Match. I told him, I had engaged with a Lady to play at *Ombre*; that I thought, I ſhould much oblige him in procuring him, what he had ſo long deſired.

"Why, *replied he to me*, did "you not rather make the Match "with Men? Is it of neceſſity for "Divertiſement, that there muſt "always be Women.

"Yes,

"Yes, *ſaid I to him*, it is the "great Seaſoning of Pleaſure, and "the Soul of Converſation. Be- "ſides in *France* the Women play "better at *Ombre*, than the Men, "and ſhe who prays you to it, "underſtands it without compari- "ſon better than your ſelf, as much "*Spaniard* as you are.

"Be it ſo then, *ſays he to me*, "You have done well, I do ill to "complain. Whilſt one plays, "Love is in great idleneſs: The "Violence of this Paſſion yields "to that of Play: The pleaſure of "winning, or the deſpight of lo- "ſing, baniſh the uſe of Tender- "neſs, and fair Sentiments. Thus "how amorous ſoever the Coun- "teſs, to whom we go, may be, "I hope to find there ſome plea- "ſure in the Game. I leave you, "My Lord; You have need of "Repoſe: I am going to write to

"the

" the Count of *Fonſaldaign*. The " good Man is yet at *Cambray*, " where he would be glad to find " Ladies ſo tender, and ſo obliging " to him, as they are here to me: " I would willingly, if it were " poſſible, give him up all the " multitude: I will preſent him " your Reſpects, and make him a " ſuccinct rehearſal of our Em- " ploys. I ſhall expect you " then.

When he was gone, the Counteſs of *G*--- ſent to me, to know, if ſhe might rely upon my word, and if the young *Spaniard* had given me his. I returned her this Anſwer; That ſhe might build both upon the one, and the other; and that the Marqueſs of *Medina* had refuſed great Engagements this day, that he might be wholly hers. Seeing that my Sleep was interrupted, and that the time of the

the King's Maſs approached, I aroſe to go ſhew my ſelf for a moment at the *Louvre*; but it was impoſſible for me to do ſo, by reaſon of the great number of Letters, that the Ladies ſent me, for to bring the young *Spaniard* to ſpend the day with them. She, which preſſed me moſt to it, was the Preſidenteſs of *B*---, of whom I had already ſpoken to him. This Preſidenteſs was of a celebrious Parliament of *France*, whom an important Affair had brought to *Paris* with the Preſident her Husband. Her Birth, her Wit, and her great Beauty made her conſidered at Court, whither ſhe often went, which procured her ſo much favour, that the earneſtneſs, wherewith her Affairs were ſollicited, gave her the diſſatisfaction of a more ſpeedy Return, than ſhe would have deſired. I ingenuouſly

ouſly acquainted her with our Engagement, put off the Viſit till the morrow, and ſent her word, That if ſhe would attract the *Spaniard* to her, for whom ſhe had teſtified to me ſo much ſenſibility, ſhe muſt learn to play at *Ombre*, and leave the reſt to her good Fortune.

The hour of Rendevouz being come, we went to the Counteſs of *G—*. The Lady indeed was more prepared for Love, than Play, inſomuch that we could ſcarce have Cards; but I being unwilling, that the young *Spaniard* ſhould think I deceived him, injured a little the Paſſion of the amorous Lady, and brought the Game to a beginning. The Marqueſs of *Medina* was this day magnificently dreſs'd: His charming Air, his great Youth, and his glittering Attire made ſtrange Ravage in the Heart of

of the fair Counteſs, whoſe amorous tranſport could never be moderated to gain the coldneſs of the *Spaniard* by Formalities. She truſted much to the addreſs of her Wit, which was alſo extraordinary in all things. The ſweet and complacent Phyſiognomy of the Stranger gave her Confidence, and the agreeableneſs, wherewith he diſſembled the Sentiments of his Heart, ſeemed to aſſure her of the Conqueſt of his Love.

They played with a negligence, which was not at all pleaſing to the Marqueſs. This Game requires application, and a continual reaſoning, with which the Lady was not well provided, nor capable ſo to be at the ſight of ſo amiable a Cavalier, who, ſeeing the Spirit of the charming Counteſs ſo embarraſſed, ſaid to her with a tone, which augmented her Rage. "Let

"us

"us defer this Pleaſure, Madam, "till another day. And in a ſenſe, that anſwered not the Ladies: "You play with fear, becauſe "I am a *Spaniard*, and you think "me better skill'd at this Game, "than your ſelf: No, Madam, "there is nothing leſs, than the "ſubject of your apprehenſion.

"Go to then, *ſaid ſhe*, Let us "put an end to our Game, and "diſcourſe of the manner of Play-"ing, that being better inſtru-"cted, I may be another time "more hardy.

The young Marqueſs, foreſeeing, that all thoſe Reaſonings would fall upon the Chapter of Love, ſaid, that it was time to part; that there was a *Spaniſh* Play to be acted this Evening before the Queen; and that, it being new, and of a ſingular Character, he had been ceremoniouſly deſired

to

be there by those of his Nation; at being a Man of his Word, e- n in the smallest matters, he ved not to fail. This great Re- larity, whereof, the Countess rceived, he made profession, ve her hope, that, if he pro- ised her another Visit, he would faithful to his Word: Which e obtained of him, before he ent away, and wherewith she ntented her Imagination, during the time, he was in *France*.

Having freed our selves, as well we could, and enjoying a full berty to speak at our ease: Without lying, *said the* Spaniard *to me*, I know no more, what to judge of your Amity. Are these the Troubles, you give your self, to procure me Pleasure? What? Is this that Illustrious Countess, you proposed to me, for to inspire me with Love, and

" to change my Indifference? She
" is more worthy of Pity, than I:
" For I can ſhun and avoid amorous
" Converſations; but ſhe carries
" her Paſſion every where with
" her. She is amorous and con-
" ſtant, as you told me; but you
" added not, that ſhe is yet more
" fooliſh and viſionary: I believe
" that this Portrait of her is juſt.
" In good faith, Marqueſs, either
" I my ſelf am very fooliſh; or
" you are not very skilful in the
" knowledge of Women. I am
" willing, that my complacence
" ſhall go on to the end: We have
" but one left to ſee of thoſe four
" Illuſtrious Ones, that you pro-
" poſed to me. Let us ſee then
" this incomparable Preſidenteſs of
" *B*---: Without doubt ſhe will
" be no leſs an Original, than the
" others. In the mean time, My
" Lord, the Hour of the Comedy
" preſſes

"preſſes us: You know the En-
"gagements, wherein I am to be
"there, and with the firſt.

Whatever haſt we made after our reflection, we came ſo late, that all was full. Two unknown Ladies, ſeeing the pain, we were in for Places, made us a ſign to paſs over to them, for that they were Perſons, who had Accommodation. The Marqueſs, who ſtood always upon his Guard at the Civilities of Ladies, contented himſelf to anſwer them by bowing his Head, and kiſſing his Hand, withdrawing me from accepting their offer; but in fine, he could not defend himſelf from it, nor me neither.

Theſe two Ladies, which neither of us knew, who had more Agreeableneſs than Beauty, were two *Provencialles*, who had been at the Expence of coming to *Paris*,

to ſee the Entry. Being conducted but by an indifferent Patron, they judged it much better to procure themſelves one of ſo great a luſtre, as we appeared to be, to introduce them every-where. I made uſe of all my Courteſie, to make them a Complement, which might at leaſt equal their Civility. The *Spaniard*, having mixed ſome words of ſweetneſs in his, they judged themſelves bound in Honour to pay them with the like.

Seeing, that this Entertainment continued, and that I heard things ſo Romantick on the part of theſe ſtrange Ladies, I put my ſelf into the Converſation, and asked them at firſt, whence they came, ſaying, That having not yet ſeen them at Court, I thought I might preſume to take this liberty. The eldeſt of them anſwered me, That they were of the fartheſt part of *Normandy*. "I

"I am no longer surprized, *re-*
"*plied I to them,* at the beauty
"of your Wits. 'Tis a Province,
"which produces many such; but
"in verity yours surpass in delica-
"cy and singularity all, that I
"have seen from thence to this
"present time.

Being willing to push this Adventure or my Curiosity to the end, I enquired the Name of their House; and they told me, That on their Mother's-side they were of the Royal Blood. At this surprizing Answer, the *Spaniard* and my self put our selves in a posture of greater Respect, than we were in; and I making use of the word *Highness*, these illustrious Princesses told me, That they received not this eminent Title, because it was not given even to the Royal House of *Hyvetot*, from whence they were descended. I judged, that

there was ſome myſtery in all this Gallimaufry, which I could not comprehend, and the *Spaniard* much leſs, than I; but they being in a readineſs to tell us more, than we ſhould have dared to ask, fully contented our Curioſity, and even during the Comedy, gave us one far more agreeable and divertizing, to which the *Spaniard* gave all his attention.

The

The History of the Two Princesses of Normandy.

" LOVE has caused the Good
" and Evil of our Family:
" My Mother, being what I have
" already told you, degenerated
" from the greatness of her Birth,
" having, through a violent Pas-
" sion, espoused a Stranger, who
" was scarce a Gentleman. He
" died some time after their Mar-
" riage, leaving her little of the
" Goods of Fortune; but my Mo-
" ther, whose natural Temper
" was a violent inclination to
" Love, believed, that it was a
" great Succession for us, to inspire
" us with this Spirit. Her cares
" to communicate it unto us were
" not unprofitable: We inherited

" this precious Treasure; and for
" to perfectionate the advantage-
" ous Qualities, which Nature
" had given us, she left us for a
" special Portion her Library,
" which consisted of above three
" thousand Volumes of Romances,
" and told us, That this ought to
" be our only Study, and our
" whole Employment; that the
" Reading of them would instruct
" us entirely in all things. It is
" true, Heaven has so far favour-
" ed our Obedience, that we are
" become so knowing in the Art
" of Loving, and of bringing e-
" ven the most insensible and most
" indifferent to Love, that what-
" ever resistance an Heart makes,
" it is impossible for it to be able
" to defend itself therefrom.

" And for to give you an Ex-
" ample thereof, which may con-
" vince you of this verity, I will

" tell

" tell you, My Lords, that, a
" little after my Mother's Death,
" my younger Sister, and my self
" were yet in the first Transports
" of our Sorrow, when, to di-
" minish the violence thereof, we
" went to walk on the Sea-shore:
" It seemed to us, that this place
" had something solitary enough,
" that it was fit to entertain our
" Melancholy, and conformable
" to the sorrowful estate, wherein
" we then were. We had brought
" with us the first Tome of *Clelia*,
" and we were in that part, where
" the young *Aronce* is carried a-
" way in a Bark upon the Lake of
" *Terasymene*, when my Sister per-
" ceived from afar a shattered Ves-
" sel, which appeared to us to be
" the sad Remains of a cruel Tem-
" pest, and which was driven along
" at the mercy of the Winds, the
" dexterity and ability of the Pi-

" lot being no whit advantagious
" to its preſervation. Our firſt
" ſentiment tended ſtrait to pity,
" but as we had our minds filled
" with thoſe Illuſtrious Heroes and
" famous Knights of the ancient
" Romances, there preſented it
" ſelf before us ſome Idea of their
" great Adventures. I believed,
" I ſaw *Amandy*, courſing over
" the Seas to deliver the Princeſs
" *Oriana* out of the Hands of the
" *Romans*. My Siſter fancied,
" that this Adventure reſembled
" the Shipwrack of *Ceſarion*. By
" and by I would have it confor-
" mable to that of *Roſicles*, when
" he was in queſt of the Infanta
" *Lindabridis*, and ſailed upon the
" Sea without a Pilot in the in-
" chanted Veſſel. We were in all
" theſe fair and great Reflections,
" when the Veſſel came aſhore ſo
" near us, that we might eaſily
" diſtin-

" distinguish the Faces of those,
" that were therein. We saw,
" they were *Moors*, at least the
" greatest part of them. The
" novelty of the Adventure infi-
" nitely pleased us: We hoped to
" benefit thereby, and make it
" the Subject of one of these little
" Novels, which are so much to
" the gust of the Age. We had
" with us some Domesticks, who
" assisted these Strangers to come
" forth of their Weather-beaten
" Vessel. They were no sooner
" landed, but their Countenances
" changed from the Terror of the
" Peril, wherein they had been,
" and yielded entirely to the plea-
" sure of having avoided it. My
" Sister and my self accosted them,
" and shewing them our House,
" we made a sign, that we offered
" them it, for to refresh them
" there, and give them opportuni-
" ty

" ty to repair their Ship. They
" made us a ſign, that they acce-
" pted our Civility, and that they
" had need of this ſuccour, to re-
" cruit themſelves after the Fa-
" tigues of ſo dangerous a Naviga-
" tion. I gave my hand to him,
" who appeared the moſt reſpected
" amongſt theſe Strangers, and my
" Siſter hers to another. Some
" Maids, who ſerved us, took the
" charge of conducting ſome of the
" Train of theſe *Moors*. Being
" arrived at the place of our abode,
" we led the Strangers into their
" Chambers, leaving them the li-
" berty to repoſe themſelves.

" One Man there was amongſt
" their Attendants, whoſe Com-
" plexion, leſs black than the o-
" thers, made me judge, that he
" might be an *European*, and we
" believed, that he was a *Spaniard*.
" We having perfectly that Tongue

" with

" with many others, I made a ſign
" to him, that I would ſpeak with
" him; and asking him in *Spaniſh*,
" what Country-man he was, he
" anſwered me, he was of *Granada*.
" I deſired him to acquaint us, who
" theſe Perſons were, with whom
" he was: He told us, they were
" two Princes, Brethren to the
" King of *Morocco*, who, to avoid
" the Tyranny of their Brother,
" that would have put them to
" death, had expoſed themſelves
" to the mercy of the Winds, to
" ſearch for ſome *Aſylum*, either
" with the King of *Fez*, or the
" Baſha of *Algier*; but on the ſe-
" cond day of their Navigation, a
" Tempeſt had with ſo much vio-
" lence attacked them, that it had
" broken the Maſts and Yards of
" their Ship, and they had been
" conſtrained to make uſe of Ropes,
" for the tying certain pieces of the
" Veſſel

" Veſſel, that were ready to fall
" off. We learnt alſo from the
" *Spaniard*, who was called *Don*
" *Almar*, that the *Mooriſh* Prin-
" ces ſpake perfectly his Language,
" and we were then very impati-
" ent to ſee them, both to learn
" their Adventures, and to tell
" them, that our Quality was not
" inferiour to theirs: And of this
" we were careful alſo to inſtruct
" the *Spaniard*, to the end the
" Princes might treat us as Prin-
" ceſſes. When our Illuſtrious
" Gueſts were a little refreſhed,
" they deſired to ſee us. We re-
" ceived them in a Gallery which
" is our moſt agreeable abode, as
" being our Library: Our Habits
" were of Mourning, and conſe-
" quently more neat than magni-
" ficent; but thô we were with-
" out Ornaments, we fail'd not
" to pleaſe the *Moors*, and the Star

" of

" of that Day was fatal to all our
" Houſe for the giving and recei-
" ving of Love: For *Don Almar*,
" and two or three others of that
" Company, fell in Love with
" our Gentlewomen, and Cham-
" ber-maids. They paſſed not
" the reſt of the day without gi-
" ving us Teſtimonies of their
" Love. I had the elder for my
" lot, and my Siſter the younger.
" They at firſt ſpake to us with
" great reſpect, and we endea-
" voured alſo to inſpire it into
" them; but at Night my Siſter
" and I concluded, that we muſt
" not let the Action languiſh, that
" knowing, how Heroins of Ho-
" nour ought to live, we ought
" to propoſe to them the eſpou-
" ſing us, and letting them ſee
" the juſt Pretenſions, we had to
" the Kingdom of *Hyvetot*, we
" would perſwade them, that fu-
" gitive

" gitive *African* Princes might be
" the Lot of ſuch Princeſſes, as
" we. They believed us, and
" gave us their Faith to eſpouſe
" us. We gave them ours, with
" ſenſible Pledges of our Word.
" We lived ſome days in a pro-
" found Peace. The blackneſs
" of our Lovers diſguſted us not,
" and we found in their Entertain-
" ment Pleaſures, which, we could
" not perſwade our ſelves, would
" ever end. But the Infidels, pre-
" tending to go ſee *Hauvre-de-*
" *Grace*, imbarqu'd themſelves in
" a Veſſel, bound for *Portugal*,
" and like ungrateful *Æneaſes*, left
" my Siſter and me as unhappy
" *Didoes*.

This Story, no leſs pleaſant than extravagant, cauſed an unconceivable dread in the *Spaniard*. The recital of theſe terrible Words,

of

of *Romance*, of *Impulſion* to *Love*, of *Inclination*, of *Tenderneſs*, and of *Adventures*, caſt him into ſo great a diſorder, that looking upon me with a tired Eye, he ſaid to me with all the ſweetneſs, whereof he was at that moment capable: "I give up the Game, my dear "Friend, I can no longer hold "out: Amorous Converſations "are to me ſomething worſe than "Death: Love perſecutes me, all "his Agents are let looſe againſt "me. The only Pleaſure alſo, which "is left me in mine Unhappineſs, "is to revenge me on him by the "augmentation of my Hatred.

This Tranſport being paſt between us two, he lookt upon the Watch of one of theſe ingenious Lovers, and told them, He was in deſpair, becauſe he muſt leave them, that being obliged to be preciſely at the hour, it then was,

at

the Repitition of an *Entry de Balet*, wherein he had the Honour to Dance with the King, he could not delay one moment, that his Friend ſhould learn their Abode, to viſit them, and advertize them of the day, that they ſhould be there amongſt the beſt-placed, becauſe he would take care of it himſelf.

It were impoſſible to expreſs the Joy, the *Spaniard* had, to ſee himſelf rid of ſo importune a Converſation, and that ſo cruelly troubled his mind. He beheld them as Enchantreſſes, ſince the moſt rebellious Hearts could not defend themſelves, nor reſiſt their Aſſaults; nevertheleſs, being a Man of his Word, and eſteeming it an Honour to be punctual in keeping it, he would have given them the Viſit, he had made them expect; but by an unforeſeen Happineſs

pineſs for him, theſe Ladies, being got home, found Letters, that acquainted them with the extremity, wherein an Uncle of theirs was, from whom they expected a conſiderable Succeſſion. This preſſing News obliged them to depart that very Night, after they had written me a Letter, full of Eſteem for us both, and of an infallible hope, that we ſhould ſoon ſeen them again at *Paris*, beſeeching us to continue our Favours to them, as the only advantage, they could deſire. I ſhewed their Letter to the Marqueſs of *Medina*, who without much difficulty comforted both himſelf and me for the departure of theſe incomparable Princeſſes.

I had undertaken to convince him, that it was impoſſible to live without Love, eſpecially in this continual Idleneſs of Comedy, of Game,

Game, of Ball, of Feaſts, and of Walks, amongſt the faireſt Perſons of our Age, which are in the Court of our Queens. Seeing him, as I thought, in a diſpoſition to be made accord to this verity, I told him, That we muſt no longer delay to ſee my Lady Preſidenteſs of *B*---, that I had given my Word for this ſame day.

"I will go, ſaid he, with his ordinary, complacent, and agreeable Air; and he added: "On this "Viſit depends the iſſue of the "Game, either to be amorous, or "to renounce Love for ever. I "ſtand too much upon my guard "againſt the firſt; and am too well "fortified upon the ſecond. Af- "ter this, a Change would make "you laugh heartily. Let us, "My Lord, try the Fortune there- "of, you are the Director of mine; "and on what ſide ſoever the Ha-

"zard

"zard turns, I believe, it will be
" extraordinary.

At that moment he call'd to mind, that the King that very day gave his first Audience to the Embassy of the Marquess *De la Fuentes*, from being present at which he could not dispense with himself, what reason soever I alledged to him; and that therefore we must put off our Visit till the morrow, and advertize my Lady Presidentess thereof.

" No, *said I to him*, there will
" be time enough to satisfie both
" these Obligations. She expects
" us, we must never delay the
" Moments of Pleasure, nor put
" off the Exercise thereof: I pro-
" mise you, that yours shall not
" be mean, and that you shall ac-
" knowledge, that whatsoever
" there is of Charms, Agreeable-
" ness, Wit, and Beauty, they are

" all

" all found in the Perſon, I propoſe " to you.

Curioſity, rather than Love, raiſed in him an extream Impatience to ſee her: He preſented himſelf for a moment at the Audience of his Ambaſſador, and from thence went to her. I had a good Augury from this haſt, which I valued to the Lady, that ſhe might be obliged to me for it, and that ſhe might ceaſe continually to reproach me with the delay, whereof ſhe accuſed me. The Preſidenteſs, raviſhed to ſee with her, what had a long time made the Idea of her ſweeteſt Pleaſures, began to endeavour to make them ſenſible and true. She this day joined to her Beauty all, that the Mode had moſt rare, to charm and dazle the Eyes of the *Spaniard*, whom ſhe knew to be delicate and difficult. In fine, ſhe forgot nothing,

that

that might favour her Conqueſt, wherein ſo many Beauties had failed, and whereof ſhe pretended to make her Glory, founded upon ſome Raillery, put upon her at the Queen's, in the Circle, where ſhe was not ſpared. Whatever reſplendent Charm the *Spaniard* obſerved in her, he was Maſter of his Heart, and of his Actions. The little eſteem, wherewith he was prepoſſeſt in favour of Women, changed no more for her, than for the others, the Reſolution, he had made never to love. He diſcourſed her very ſoberly of her Beauty, altho' he found it great and rare; but the Indifference, he teſtified in the procedure of his Converſation, conſtrained the Lady to ſpeak clearly to him of the Eſteem, ſhe had for him, and of the Paſſion, might ſpring from thence, ſhould ſhe hearken more

to

to her Heart, than her Reaſon. She joined ſo dextrouſly to this Diſcourſe the Eloquence of Sighs, Looks, and Voice, that ſhe often thought, and even with a juſt impatience expected, that his Mouth ſhould by an obliging Anſwer confirm the favourable Judgment, ſhe made of his Perſon, and his Merit; but certainly ſhe was deceived in her Projects: For the *Spaniard* ſo oppoſed the coldneſs of his Nation to the ſweet Diſcourſes of the amorous and tender Lady, that ſhe drew thence diſpairing Conſequences; and taking for a Contempt, what appeared only to be an effect of his Temper, or his Modeſty, ſhe ſtood in need of all her Reaſon, to diſſemble the greatneſs of her Pain, and keep her Emotion from being perceived by the Preſident her Husband, who entred juſt at that moment.

He

He was ſufficiently advanced in Years, Jealous, Miſtruſtful, and would ſee, what Company came to his Houſe. He was my Friend, and confided, as much as might be, in my Probity, not believing me capable to bring to his Wife any one, that could inſpire into her Sentiments, contrary to her Duty. I preſented to him the Marqueſs of *Medina*, to whom he offered his Houſe, and his Power, with Civilities, extraordinarily obliging. He ſtayed a little with us, having that day an Affair of Conſequence to terminate with the Duke of *Eſpernon*, engaging us at the firſt fair Weather to a Meeting at his fine Houſe near *Paris*.

This Afternoon there came a great many Perſons to ſee the Preſidenteſs. There was Gaming, Converſation, and a thouſand o-

ther Pleaſures to the guſt of the *Spaniard*, who was in a very good humor, becauſe he met there Gameſtreſſes, who diſcourſed againſt Love, and much more againſt amorous Ladies, becauſe themſelves were not capable to inſpire it. The Preſidenteſs, attentive to the Air and Meen of the Marqueſs, was heartily enraged againſt theſe Enemies of Love, and told them, That with her it was never ill ſpoken of, that Love ought to be reputed, as a thing Sacred; and that they would be very much ſurprized, if this Paſſion ſhould change into tenderneſs, and they, being become paſſionately amorous, ſhould find themſelves without Lovers.

" O God! Madam, *ſaid the*
" *Counteſs of* B---, *and the Mar-*
" *chioneſs of* M----, *burſting forth*
" *into laughter*, What Suppoſitions
" are

" are here to render us unhappy !
" We are no longer in the Age of
" the *Metamorphoſis*, for to fear
" ſuch Adventures.

The Preſident came in, and being wholly ſurprized to ſee my Friend and me ſtill there, could not forbear ſaying: " How, My " Lords! Are you there ſtill? " Were I at your Age, I ſhould " have made thirty Viſits in this " time.

I drew him aſide, to tell him, That he muſt not wonder at the length of our ſtay, that it was the Cuſtom of Strangers, and principally of the *Spaniards*, to be through reſpect Seven or Eight Hours in their Viſits with Perſons, they eſteemed like him, without ſpeaking of my Lady Preſidenteſs. He was ſatisfied with my Anſwer, even to the pleaſant Humor, I told him of, how if they chanced to be

ſurprized therein by the Rain, they willingly lay in the Houſes, where they happned to be, for fear the ill Weather ſhould incommode their Attendants, and ſpoil their Equipage. He fell a laughing, and retired, telling the *Spaniard*, he was Maſter in his Houſe. The Lady, ſeconding the Civilities of her Husband, offered him much more; but not to treſpaſs upon the Humor of the Preſident, who had uſed it with ſo good a Grace, we departed, promiſing the Lady to obtain ſpeedily of Heaven this fair Day for our Meeting in the Country.

This ſame Evening My Lord Cardinal treated the King, the Queen, and the whole Court with a Magnificence, ſuitable to his Grandeur. Attending the hour of the Feaſt, we diſcourſed a long time about our Viſit; and I having

ving asked him, for which of the four Ladies he ſhould have the greateſt inclination, and ſtrongeſt impulſe: He told me, It would not be at leaſt for the Preſidenteſs, who ſurpaſſed indeed in Beauty and Wit the three others, but much more in Indiſcretion, in Tatling, and in Extravagance. He had almoſt made me of his opinion, had I not been obliged in honour to approve mine own work. He added, That if he were ever unhappy enough to fall in Love, it would never be with her; and diſguſting himſelf by the worſt Sentiments, he could conceive of her, he deſired me never to ſpeak of her, if I were his Friend. It was eaſie for me to ſerve him after his own Mode, becauſe I am a Lover of Liberty, and if I had for ſome time forced his, it was only through an endeavour to cure

his Mind of the Pain, wherein I perceiv'd it to be, ſince he had honoured me with his Confidence.

As we were going forth to meet ſome of our Friends at the *Louvre*, a Lacquay from the Ladies *M*---- and *N*----, brought us a common Note, which very much blamed our negligence. We were with them punctually at the time, they appointed us. One of theſe illuſtrious Goſſips, as dextrous, as ever was any, in acquiring of Lovers, believed, that the *Spaniard* was wanting to make her Victory more celebrious. She had endeavoured, but in vain, a long time to gain a Conqueſt over him, and having this day employed all her Induſtry to attract him by her Dreſs, ſhe received thereby a very great Applauſe, and many pleaſing Praiſes, ſo that ſhe had no cauſe

cauſe to complain, and yet leſs to hope any favour, that might content the deſire, ſhe had of gaining ſo illuſtrious a Servant.

We were happy enough dextrouſly to retire our ſelves from thence, and we yielded with joy the Honour of conducting theſe Beauties to the importunate Croud of thoſe urgent Lovers, who would without doubt have diſputed the Glory thereof, ſince it made the moſt illuſtrious Conqueſt of their Life. We continued together ſome time, before we engaged our ſelves with the Prince of *C*----, the Duke of *R*---, and the Mareſchal of *A*--, to ſee the Feaſt. He made a thouſand Reflections upon the *Capricioes* of Love, and the cruel Pains, it cauſes thoſe to ſuffer, who are ſtrongly poſſeſt with that Paſſion. The only pleaſure, which he found therein, was to think, on what

one loves: But this pleaſure not being ſuſtained by any ſolid Joy; and ſeeing it on the other ſide followed by a thouſand Fears, continual Diſtruſts, diſpleaſing Uncertainties, and, above all, by a fatal Jealouſie, he concluded, that Love has only light Pleaſures, and heavy Pains.

"When I was of the number of "theſe unhappy Ones, *ſaid the* "Spaniard, I always languiſhed in "a certain fear, which repreſented "to me all my Pains, but now "that I am, maugre all your "Cares, delivered from, and ful- "ly diſabuſed of theſe falſe Plea- "ſures, I will render my ſelf the "Author of mine own Felicity, "and begin to live, putting an "end to my Diſgraces. Reaſon "ſhall ſucceed my Weakneſs, for "to hinder me from loving; and "if that be not ſtrong enough to

"ſuſtain

" ſuſtain the Aſſaults of Love, I " ſhall know ſo well to avoid the " Occaſions of falling thereinto, " that they ſhall never be able to " ſhake the Tranquility of my " Soul. See, my dear Friend, the " Deſtiny, that I make me, and " the only Glory, I propoſe to " my ſelf. Reaſon has carried " me above Love: I follow the " ſalutary Counſels of the one, and " renounce the impetuous Motions " of the other.

" O God! *ſaid I, interrupting him,* How well you ſuſtain the " Character of your Nation, to " diſcourſe ſo morally of a Paſſion, " which is ſcarce ever the effect of " the Will. Unleſs I be poſſeſt " of this by the certainty of an O- " racle, I give not thereto all my " belief.

" Well then, *replied he to me,* " I will convince you of the ver-

" ty of mine, and having made
" you the Confident of my Miſ-
" fortunes, it is juſt alſo, that you
" ſhould be inſtructed in my Hap-
" pineſs.

" There is a certain time of the
" Year at *Madrid*, that Perſons of
" Quality retire themſelves to
" ſome Solitude, either to taſt a
" little Repoſe, or to meditate a
" little more ſeriouſly upon the
" Affairs of their Salvation. The
" ſecond, as a more ſpecious pre-
" tence, eaſily obtained leave of
" my Friends for my Retreat: I
" choſe the Monaſtery of the *Eſcu-*
" *rial*, whither I ſent a Groom of
" my Chamber to wait for me,
" feigning a Vow to a Church,
" which was near enough to it. I
" took Poſt alone, and went to-
" wards *Toledo*, to conſult a fa-
" mous Solitary, who, they ſaid,
" was a Magician, verſed in the

" Science

" Science of the ancient *Arabians*
" for Taliſmans, Aſtrology, and the
" Explication of Dreams. In a
" word, he had ſuch extraordina-
" ry Lights for all things, which
" were propoſed to him, that he
" was infallible in his Oracles. He
" was in a dark and obſcure Cave,
" which ſeemed rather the Abode
" of a Devil, than of a Man. I
" confeſs, I was ſeized with horror
" at the ſight of this Place, and
" much more of his Perſon, whoſe
" Habit was a Sack, fit for his
" Body, made of the Leaves of
" Palm; but being reſolved to
" know at what rate ſoever the
" courſe of my Deſtiny, I ſurmoun-
" ted my fear, and reaſſuring my
" ſelf by the Remains of my Cou-
" rage, I ſpake to him through a
" Grate, ſet with Spikes of Iron.
" When I came to the matter of
" my Requeſt, he enjoyned me
" Silence,

" Silence, and told me better,
" than I could have declared it to
" him, all, that had befallen me,
" when I loved the young Coun-
" teſs of *Carlile*. The Circum-
" ſtances, he obſerved to me, made
" me give an entire belief to his
" Diſcourſes. After I had confeſt
" to him the Verities, he had told
" me, I requeſted of him a Secret,
" to render my Heart thence-for-
" ward inſenſible to Love. He
" told me, That herein was his
" principal Excellence, that he
" made not any difficulty of this
" miraculous Operation, ſince it
" was his Maſterpiece, but granted
" it to thoſe, that deſired it, that in
" in me he conſidered my Birth,
" the Good of the State, and the
" Repentance, which perhaps I
" might one day have thereof,
" when it would be without Re-
" medy. In fine, compaſſionating

" my

" my Misfortunes, touched with
" my Sighs, and yet more with a
" Charity, wholly paternal, he
" consented to my desire. I en-
" tred farther into his old Mannor,
" where by the Light of an almost
" extinguished Torch he cast the
" Figure of my Nativity, and
" drew out of an Hole in the
" Earth a Vessel, full of a certain
" precious Balm, made of a *Sala-*
" *mander*, dried and reduced into
" a Powder by the breath of his
" mouth at the Aspect of the
" Moon. All these Words struck
" a Terrour into me. But, O
" God! What would one not suffer
" for a moment, to avoid Pains
" so cruel, and which are without
" release. He took with his Fin-
" ger some of this Liquor, and
" uttering Words, which were
" understood only by my Faith,
" marked therewith in certain
" parts

" parts of my Body ſome *Arabick*
" Characters, which, being effaced
" of themſelves, communicated
" to me this Vertue, which has
" been hitherto infallible. At firſt
" the Remains of my Love were
" diſſipated, Indifference took the
" place thereof, and inſenſibly
" Contempt and Hatred.

" See, if I had not reaſon to
" laugh at Love, and at thoſe foo-
" liſh Extravagants, that love on-
" ly through Caprice, and to
" take ſome pity of thoſe decei-
" ved Lovers, who have no other
" Joy, but the thoughts of an
" Object, from which they can-
" not defend themſelves.

" But, to the purpoſe, are you
" of theſe unhappy ones? Hither-
" to I have not known any parti-
" cularities of your Heart up-
" on Love. If it be ſo, pray,
" let me know it, I would not di-

" vide

" vide my compaſſions; for being " ſo honeſt a Man, as you are, " you would merit them all, and " I will give them to you without " reſerve, as to my beſt Friend.

The greateſt ſecret to entertain an agreeable Society with our Friends, is no longer to conſtrain their Liberty, after that we have told them our Sentiments, that they have received them, and have had the complacence to yield to them. This is a Teſtimony of Acknowledgment, which I owe to the conduct of the Marqueſs of *Medina*; but it was juſt alſo, that in my turn I ſhould yield to his, and that I ſhould leave him in the choice to augment or diminiſh the Hatred and Contempt, he had conceived for the Inconſtancy of Women.

Some preſſing Affairs having obliged me to go to my Govern-

ment,

ment, he could not bear me company, although he desired it, because of an Indisposition, which was befallen him by over-heating himself at *Tennis*. Our parting was very displeasant to us both: He kept his Bed, and his Chamber, during my whole Journey. Our Friends abandoned him not, diverting him the best they could. They played, they told Novels, Ladies nor Love having no part in this Commerce. He tasted the pleasure of these Conversations in all their purity, he gathered himself so great a Society of Malecontents, and all Enemies of Love, that his House was become an Academy, famous for Injuries, Contempt, and Hatred against all those, that had Mistresses. The honestest Man was he, that had most Eloquence, to exaggerate his Rage and his Despair; and with-

out doubt the *Spaniard* poſſeſt not the laſt place in this famous Univerſity, ſince he alone had as much hatred for Love, as all the reſt together. My Return was ſpeedier, than I thought for, I alighted at his Houſe when I came to Town, and finding him ſtill indiſpoſed, I told him, That he muſt combat his Diſtemper; that I knew a very able Phyſitian, who would ſpeedily cure him. He would willingly have one of my chuſing; and having asked me, If it were not that famous Emperick, whom we ſaw with the Preſidenteſs of *B*----, I anſwered him, It was the ſame. "My God, *replied he to me*, his "Air and Phyſiognomy much "pleaſe me. I ſhould have a "great confidence in his Secrets, "and Preſcriptions; and if there "were any thing, that could di-"miniſh it, it would be the quali-

"ty

" ty of being Phyſitian to a Perſon,
" for whom I have ſo little eſteem.
" That is an illuſion, *ſaid I to him*,
" a Spirit, ſo ſtrong, as yours,
" ought to be above all theſe *Chi-*
" *mera's*. A Page went preſently in my Coach to fetch him. He came; and having found, that his Diſtemper was more in his Mind, than Body, he told him, ſmiling, That there was no better Phyſitian to cure him, than his own ſelf; that his Malady was a ſubtil Heat, cauſed by the exceſs of a Paſſion, that reſided in his Soul; and aſſaulted it with violence; that ſometimes the Body participated by relation of its Diſtempers, and that thus he offered him his Services, and all the Cares, that his Quality required of him; that he would take the Honour to ſee him again. " Without lying, *ſaid the*
" Spaniard *to me*, this Man has a
" very

" very deceitful appearance; for
" he appears wise, but by my Faith
" he is very foolish; according to
" the extravagance of his Jargon,
" I should then either be amorous,
" or have a desire to become so.
" Hearken, *says he, speaking to his*
" *Servants*, if this Dreamer comes
" again, tell him, I am recovered;
" that I followed his Counsel, and
" laboured therein my self alone.
" Have a care, *said I to him*, I was
" willing to let this first motion
" of your Choler evaporate; but
" believe me, you are sick; his
" Discourse appeared to me just
" enough; and not to disguize to
" you, what I think thereof, I
" observe I know not what in
" your Eyes, that would make
" me be of his opinion, had not
" your Confidence assured me the
" contrary: He is a very able
" Man, and of great Experience;

" he

" he has wrought at Court, and " in *Paris*, prodigious Cures; " manage him, you have need of " him, and I eſteem you happy, " that in the multiplicity of his " Affairs he offers you his Cares " with ſo much aſſiduity. He was ſurprized, at what I now ſaid to him; and diſſembling his amazement by the counter-order, he gave for his good Reception, I left him in this trouble, without taking notice to him, that I had perceived it.

I was ſome days buſied in giving Account at Court of the Affairs of my Government, ſo that I could not ſatisfie all the Devoirs of my Amity, but what I could not do my ſelf, I committed to my Friends, and my Servants, who gave me an exact and faithful account thereof. The interval of Viſits, and his wakings in the Night,

Night, cauſing him to make a thouſand reflections upon the engagement of his ſevere Morality, and upon the great advantages, he had of ſeeing himſelf in the firſt Court of *Europe*, loved, cheriſhed, and eſteemed by whatever was therein moſt great and moſt worthy of his Love, without making any benefit thereof. All theſe Meditations gave him ſuch preſſing *Ideas* of Love, principally towards the Preſidenteſs of *B*----, that he was thereat in a trouble ſo much the more cruel, as he had ſpoken a thouſand outrages of her, and durſt not communicate himſelf to any one, and much leſs to me. At firſt he ſuſpected this Emperick, a great Friend of the Ladies, who had given him ſome Drinks, of all theſe ſtrange Revolutions, and attributed the continuation thereof to the Dreams of his Diſtemper.

ſtemper. In fine, deſiring to undeceive himſelf by the violence of his Hatred, by the Oath of the Solitary, by all the Artifices of his Reaſon itſelf, it was never ſtrong enough to diſguiſe to him the Verities of his Heart. I ſaw him during the agitation of all theſe motions; and finding his Spirit in a very great inquietude, "My "Lord, *ſaid I to him,* what change "is this, that I perceive in your "Perſon? Your Speeches diſco-"ver to me a great inequality of "Sentiments; Cannot one eaſe "your Heart? You have proved "me already ſome time ſince, I "am ſecret, modeſt, commode, "capable, and above all this a "ſincere Friend; pray, leave me "no longer in the pain to ſee you "ſuffer; your Afflictions ſenſibly "touch me. Not daring to confeſs to me a verity, which he would

would not yet believe himself, he told me, He was of a Nation, so sensible of the tenderness of their Friends, that what care soever I had ordained for his Person, my absence seemed to him an oblivion. I would not penetrate any farther into the bottom of his Heart, well knowing, that this was not it; so I remitted to time the instruction of my Curiosity, and the ardor of my Impatience.

One of the Officers of my Government, not having found me at home, came to my Friend's House, to receive my Orders, to the end he might immediately depart, for to render himself, where his Duty called him. Not having about me his Dispatches, nor the Letters, I writ to the Ladies of my Neighbourhood, I was obliged to leave the Marquess of *Medina* alone for some moments. He desired

ſired me not to give my ſelf the trouble of returning that Evening; that his Diſtemper required repoſe and ſolitude; and that if there paſſed any thing extraordinary, I ſhould be ſpeedily advertized thereof. I left him in the liberty, he demanded of me, and which I found ſo much the more juſt, as it appeared an effect of his Heart, and of the Indifference, wherein he had reſolved to live.

A little after, being at mine own Houſe with my Lady Dutcheſs of *Wirtemberg*, and the Mareſchalleſs of *H*-----, I ſaw through a Window, where I was leaning, a Page of the *Spaniards*, who expected me, I believed there was ſome new thing befallen him; and being familiar with theſe Ladies, I eaſily obtained of their Civility to let him come in. He gave me a Note from his Lord, which

I read

I read to my ſelf, and wherein was contained what the Dutcheſs ſaid with a tone of pleaſantneſs, and very maliciouſly: "Does he not "write to you, that he is become "amorous? Without lying, it "might well be the firſt Miracle "of our Age. I am penetrating "enough in theſe ſorts of Myſte-"ries to be ſcarce ever deceived "in this knowledge. Alas! Ma-"dam, *ſaid I to her*, he is ſick, "and ſpeaks to me only of his "Malady. O God! *replied ſhe*, "it would be a great benefit for "him. I have ſometimes ſet my "ſelf to define him; but with all "my lights, I could never ſucceed "in it: For my part I do not be-"lieve him a *Spaniard*, becauſe of "the icy temper, whereof he is "made for Love: For he is the "only Perſon of his Nation, that "has ever defended himſelf from

" it; others make all their For-
" tune, all their Grandeur, and
" all their Glory to conſiſt in Gal-
" lantry, in the Science of Loving,
" and in an infinite number of
" Miſtreſſes. For him, he is not
" ſatisfied only with not loving,
" but he ſuffers with pain, that
" one ſhould love him; it has been
" averred to me, that he no lon-
" ger ſees Women, I believe it;
" becauſe he comes no more near
" me. You are his Friend, aſſure
" him on my behalf, that he may
" come thither without fear, and
" that he ſhall be there in great ſe-
" curity; for in my Houſe are
" practiſed only the Rules of *Val-*
" *de-Grace*.

The Marſchalleſs ſmiled heartily, and I believe would have burſt forth into an open laughter, if the Ambaſſadreſs of *Savoy*, and the Dutcheſs of ------ had not come in,

where

where they preſently ſpake of Playing, ſaying they came only for that purpoſe. I entred them; and leaving them in my Family under pretence of ſome indiſpenſable affair, I went to the Marqueſs of *Medina*, to teſtifie to him my joy for his ſpeedy and miraculous Recovery. I told him, That the nature of his Diſeaſe was deſirable, ſince he was become ſo pleaſant a Railleur, in thinking to perſwade me, that he was amorous; that I ought not to believe him, that he ſhould a little more ſpare his Friends; and that if I had been of his ſcoffing humour, I might have made uſe of the faireſt occaſion in the World with the Ladies, from whom I juſt came, whereof one had furiouſly enlarged upon this Chapter; but that I had always much diſcretion for my Friends, and more for him, than all the reſt.

Although he aſſured me of the change of his thoughts; yet I refuſed to give an entire belief to the Sentiments, he made me thereof, telling him that it was impoſſible, this ſhould be ſo, he having had ſo many Enemies and Forces to oppoſe againſt Love. Firſt all the paſt Diſgraces; that Solemn Aſſurance in the Ceremony of the Recluſe of *Toledo*, and above all as much Reaſon in himſelf alone, as ever had all the Philoſophers together. In fine, willing to puſh my Curioſity to the end, I asked him, Of whom then by ill luck he was amorous? that perhaps by the choice I may be convinced. "Should I dare declare it to you? "*ſaid he*, I believed, that it would "be enough for the firſt time, to "tell you, that my Heart was be-"come ſenſible of Love, and to "expect another time, to the end

"I

"I might have leſs confuſion in "confeſſing to you, that I love "the Preſidenteſs of *B* --. At this Name I was wholly aſtoniſhed, and told him, That this very acknowledgment entirely undeceived me, becauſe it was impoſſible that one could ever love a Perſon, for whom he had had ſo much Contempt and Hatred. "O God! *repli-* "*ed he to me*, you ſee me in cruel "pains, it is not my Love, that "cauſes my Deſpair, but the miſ- "fortune of having rendred my "ſelf unworthy, and having ſo "little merited a Good, which "my good Fortune this day pre- "ſents me. See the Sentiments of "my Heart; thus if you are tru- "ly my Friend, you will help me "by your Wit, and by your Coun- "ſels, to conduct a budding Paſſi- "on, which cannot be happy, ex- "cept your Cares and your Amity

" give it the means. Your Diſ-
" courſe touches me, *ſaid I to him*,
" and the ſincerity wherewith I
" ſee you accompany it, will
" make me ſerve you with the
" Fidelity of a perfect Friend;
" there are great Difficulties in
" this Affair, we are to diſpoſe
" unto a return of kindneſs a Wo-
" man, fair, fierce, witty, who
" has ſeen herſelf outraged, con-
" temned, and hated, who has
" known all. What means is there
" to undeceive her, and to be able
" to perſwade her, that you now
" love her? I cannot promiſe you
" to vanquiſh all theſe Difficulties,
" but aſſure your ſelf, I will do my
" endeavour to ſucceed therein,
" and will employ my Cares, and
" all my Induſtry to procure your
" ſatisfaction, truſt in me, and
" hope all from my zeal.

I de-

I departed immediately, and although the hour were not fit for making of Visits, it was very commodious for mine. The Presidentess, surprized to see me, asked me, Whence proceeded this great haste? I told her, I came to dine with her Husband, for to desire his assistance in an affair of consequence, wherein the *Spaniard* had also some interest. "You have "said enough, *replied she*, to "make your solicitations ineffe-"ctual; and dare you name to "me, that Impertinent, that Fool, "and that Dreamer, who incessantly barks against Women, "and speaks of them a thousand "outrages? I know from good "hands, that I am not even ex-"empt from his ill Language; "but my Revenge is, never to "think of him, and to have as "much hate and contempt for his

" Perſon, as he alone has for all " our Sex.

" O God! Madam, *ſaid I to* " *her*, what cruel Enemies he has, " how unhappy he is, and how " facile you are! I was not willing " to trouble the emotions of a " Prejudice, which would be juſt, " if it were true; but I proteſt to " you, that his ſentiments are ve- " ry far from thoſe, that have been " ſo maliciouſly inſinuated into " you, ſince the Reſpect, he has " for you, is infinite, and had it " not been for his ſickneſs, he would " have very often given you illu- " ſtrious Marks, and far more ve- " ritable Teſtimonies thereof. I " know the *Spaniards* and their " Civilities towards Ladies, they " always pay them themſelves, and " never expoſe themſelves, as we " do, to the familiarity of ſending " their Pages and their Lacqueys

" to

" to learn News of them, eſpeci-
" ally when they eſteem their
" Perſons ſo highly, as the Mar-
" queſs of *Medina* reſpects and e-
" ſteems yours. I confeſs, he has
" ſpoken, and even with too much
" modeſty, of two certain Ladies,
" whom you know, that made
" him their continual Scorn and
" Sport; it is natural to repel in-
" jury with injury; but of you,
" Madam, of whom he has never
" received, but very great Civili-
" ties, I proteſt, that his Heart con-
" ſerves ſo perfect an acknowledg-
" ment thereof, that I well dare
" tell you, it reaches even to Love,
" and that he has explicated him-
" ſelf to me about it in theſe very
" terms. Ha! Marqueſs, *ſaid ſhe,*
" *interrupting me,* I believed you
" more my Friend; What Inte-
" reſt have you ſo highly to take
" the part of a Stranger? Is his

" favour preferable to mine? In
" truth your Diſcourſes ſtartle
" me, and I ſo much ſuſpect all
" your Oaths of falſity, that I can
" no longer hear you, and it ſuf-
" fices me to be perſwaded, you
" are his Friend, that you ſhould
" have part in the contempt and
" hatred, I have conceived for his
" Perſon.

If the Preſident had not come in, ſhe had puſhed farther the tranſports of her Rage; but happily for me, who had only falſe Reaſons to oppoſe againſt the juſtice of hers, his Preſence calmed all theſe Motions, which promiſed nothing advantagious to my Negotiation.

A Novel, which he told us, and which concerned, though at a diſtance, my Family, obliged me to depart, to inform my ſelf of the truth of it, my impatience hin-

hindred me from telling it to the Lady, who said to me at my going out, with a tone less fierce: "Shall we not see you again er'e "long, Marquess? I took this sweetness for a good Omen, wherewith I regalled the *Spaniard*, sweetning to him, as much as I could, the violent Rebuffs, I came from receiving. Whatever temperament I used in the reciting my Negotiation, I could say nothing obliging to the Marquess of *Medina*. He was amorous, and consequently impatient to learn something, that might favour his Love; but she, that made the only Object of his Passion, was firm and constant in her hatred. Thus he established all his Pleasures upon Returns, that always flatter the hope of culpable Lovers. On the other side, the delay of his Reconciliation augmented his dolor; and joining

one

one day to deſpite, and rage the hatred, he had againſt himſelf, he felt in his Soul all, that can be imagined moſt violent; and he would have given at that very moment bloody Marks of his Deſpair, if the diſſimulation, that was natural to him, had not come to his ſuccour, and deturned him from ſo funeſt an Enterprize. The fear of ſome dangerous accident made me obſtinate in deſiring the Lady to grant him an Interview, that in a particular Converſation he might juſtifie himſelf, and make himſelf an acknowledgment, which can never be well declared by another. She made a difficulty of conſenting thereunto; but the need ſhe had of me in this conjuncture for another Affair, made me put her in a neceſſity of not being able to defend herſelf from it. Women are naturally changeable, and

we must mistrust them through the experience, they every day give us of their conduct. I told her, That since the Marquess of *Medina* was cruelly deprived of the Honour of seeing her at her own House; that without delaying a Good, the remembrance whereof made a part of his Felicity, we must make use of this fair Ray of the Sun, which was not incommodious at that Season, for to go to the *Thuilleries*; that he should come thither, and that there they might draw all the manifestations, they desired from one another. He seconded the diligence of my Page, that went to advertize him; we had not taken one turn in the great Ally, when he appeared at the end of it with his agreeable and charming Air, whereat the Lady, maugre her hate, could not forbear saying

ing to me, That he was handſome, and to accuſe Nature of having been unhappy in this point, to have given ſo many fair and rare Qualities to a Man, that was wholly unworthy thereof. I took the Word at his approach; and although that of the Lady appeared very cold and rebutting, the *Spaniard* was not any way aſtoniſhed thereat; and ſenſible of the tranſports, that her Love inſpired to him by the Charms of her Beauty, ſeeing, that ſhe ſeemed willing to hear him, he reſolved to take this moment to ſpeak to her, and drawing nigh to her; "I am go-"ing, Madam, *ſays he to her*, to "ſurprize you, and perhaps to "diſpleaſe you, by telling you, "that I have always conſerved a "ſecret Paſſion which has been "unknown to you, but which is "ſo much augmented by ſeeing

"you

" you again, that neither your se-
" verity, nor the jealousie of your
" Husband, nor the envy of mine
" Enemies can take from it a mo-
" ment of its violence. My Re-
" spect would perhaps, Madam,
" have told you more, than my
" Actions; but when one loves
" with so much ardor, as I do,
" my Heart must speak, and my
" Mouth must be the feeble Inter-
" preter thereof. She was sur-
prized with so little an expected Discourse; and seeing, she could no longer resist so pressing a Conversation, and that it was but just to make him some Answer thereto, that at least might have an obliging appearance; she took the pretence of the incommodity of the Sun, which appeared no more, and took alone with her Woman, a leave brisk enough, without doubt to make us judge, she was not

not ſo much perſwaded, as her ſilence might have teſtified to us, ſhe was.

The *Spaniard*, not having been able to draw any other knowledge, profitable to his Love, but the ſilence, wherewith ſhe had heard him, obliged me to ſee her again, for to learn, what he could not know of her. He had ſeen the beginning of his Happineſs with joy, and though he hoped thence more agreeable conſequences in the progreſs of his Love, he was not nevertheleſs exempt from the inquietudes and impatiences, where to all Lovers are ſubject, and his Heart felt nothing amorous, which was not accompanied with fear and miſtruſt: Nevertheleſs, amongſt all his pains, which were not ſmall, he flattered as agreeably, as he could, his Paſſion by all, that a delicate tenderneſs inſpired

into

into his Soul; and his Love and my Cares answering to him for a very happy success, he apprehended no more the Vengeance, which his hatred had justly merited.

After a thousand amorous reflections, which were his whole Employ, seeing, that I seemed not to answer the eagerness of his Heart, he told me, That the moments were precious in Love, and that the delay of being with me had made me perhaps loose the moment favourable to my designs; that without any longer delay, he gave me a Letter for her; and although she might alledge to defend herself from reading it, that you are not suspected in this mystery, since you are the officious Agent thereof; make use, I conjure you of all your prudence, and all your address, that at least she will

will vouchſafe to hear you read it, and if ſhe conſents thereto, obſerve above all with ſo much exactneſs her Air and her Deportment, that by the faithful report, you ſhall make me thereof, I may myſelf judge of my good or evil Fortune.

I quickly left him to go to the Lady, whom I found upon a Couch very thoughtful and melancholy. I drew near to ask her the cauſe of her ſickneſs or ſlothfulneſs; ſhe anſwered me, She was neither ſick nor ſlothful; and lifting herſelf half up, ſhe gave me her Hand with ſuch touching regards, that I believed, ſeeing her alone, and in ſo fair a diſpoſition, I ought to make uſe thereof for the intereſt of my Friend; I gave her my Letter, which ſhe let fall. The little haſt, I made to reſtore it to her, augmented her curioſity to read it.

"Let

" Let us ſee, *ſaid ſhe to me*, only " the ſtile of the Cavalier, he muſt " be very proud, that I take the " pains to do it. Tell him nothing " of it, I deſire you, or if you " be indulgent enough not to ab- " ſtain therefrom, let it be with ſo " much moderation, that he may " merit the favour, he deſires.

The LETTER.

AFter all the Teſtimonies, Madam, which I have given you of my Love, and which I flatter my ſelf, that you have well received, I declare to you, that I know no other Pleaſure, Greatneſs, or good Fortune, than to be loved by you. I reiterate not to you all the Sentiments of my Heart, ſince my Mouth has been the faithful Interpreter thereof. All that remains for me to tell you, Madam, is, that I am no longer the Ma-

Maſter of my Paſſion, I have abandoned it to you: Thus you know all, that I am, ſince I am no longer mine.

" See, *ſaid ſhe with a ſlighting Air,* " great Sentiments, but which " touch me not. What? Ma- " dam, *replied I to her,* after an " ingenuous and ſincere Confeſ- " ſion of a Lover, that adores " you, do you perſevere ſtill to be " ſevere, cruel, and inexorable. " Ah! Madam, remember theſe " precious moments, which you " contemn, I have too much ex- " perience in Love to flatter you; " the Patience of a Lover may be " tired, and your Paſſion ſpring " up again; the favours of Love " have their time, and are very " often loſt for being deſired out " of Seaſon. Wearied with hear- ing the Preſages of an Unhappineſs, which

which perhaps she expected not, she grew angry, and told me, that my Harangues were very importunate, since when was I become so great a Philosopher; and that in fine I should speak no more to her of a Passion that displeased her, and that it was very strange, that so long a time as I have known her, I was not perswaded, that her Heart was not made like that of others.

I took not for a dismission in form the displeasure or ill humor, that she testified to me; my design was to see, how far the obstinacy of a Woman could proceed, whom I had seen amorous in excess, and who perhaps defended herself from it only through grimace.

I soon saw the *Spaniard*, to whom I gave account of my Visit, with which he was not satisfied,

fied, but in hopes he might bend by patience an Heart, that had reaſon to be firm upon the favours, he demanded of her. Some days paſſed in this cruel expectation, wherein the *Spaniard* ſaw the Preſidenteſs at the *Louvre*, and in the places of her Devotion, always ſo conſtant in her fierceneſs and contempt, that there was none, but a Lover, could ſuffer the violence thereof, and though it was almoſt only for him, I had a little ſhare, as a Friend of the Marqueſs, and yet more, as an Agent of the Myſtery.

We being met one Evening at the Queen-Mothers, where ſhe came in, the *Spaniard*, willing to make uſe of ſo happy a moment for to court her, quitted all thoſe Beauties, wherewith he was environed, to go ſpeak to her; every one took notice thereof, and the

Queen

Queen herſelf ſmiled at it. As there were only tender and paſſionate Complements to make her, for to perſwade her of the greatneſs of his Love, the place appearing to him too publick, and fearing to diſpleaſe her, he departed from her in a profound reſpect, with all the dolor, that could be cauſed by the abſence of a perſon, whom one paſſionately loves. This approach, which appeared a vehemency of tenderneſs for the Preſidenteſs cauſed Jealouſie, or to explicate my ſelf better, Rage in that great number of Miſtreſſes, whom Idleneſs rendred Lovers of all Mankind; they tormented him, and ſo cruelly preſſed him to acknowledge his Paſſion, that he was obliged to be gone to avoid the Reproaches of their Envy.

I know not how I learnt in the continuation of our Commerce, from a young domeſtick Confident of the Preſidenteſs, for her amorous Negotiations, that there had been ſome Jangle between her Husband and her upon ſuſpitions, which were ſince confirmed by the Letter, that I had given her, which the Preſident unhappily found in his Wife's Cabinet, ſearching there for ſomething elſe. His Age, his caprichious Humour, and his Jealouſie, diminiſhed much his Reaſon, and ſo augmented his Fury againſt her, that for to have Repoſe, and perſwade him the contrary, ſhe fortified herſelf in the refuſal of his Love, although there were ſcarce any day, but our Lover gave her a thouſand ſecret Marks of his Paſſion. There was no addreſs, that he employed not to make it manifeſt and pleaſing

ſing to her; he knew that ſhe very much loved Poetry, he made her *Spaniſh* Verſes, the moſt tender and amorous, that were ever ſeen; ſhe not underſtanding the Tongue, we prayed one of our Friends to tranſlate them, who made thereof this fine SONNET for her:

A SONNNET.

BUT rarely I you ſee,
No Service I you dare to render;
An Humour gay doth hide my Paſſion tender,
Then who a LOVER can call me?

I th' mean time, IRIS, *I you love,*
This cruel Martyrdom I prove,

From Jealouſies Suſpicions you to clear.
If my Reſpect may but be underſtood one day
Perhaps you then Eſteem will bear
To th' Cares, that now I dare not pay.

What prudence ſoever he uſed to conceal his Love from all the World, it became in fine publick by theſe Verſes; one ſaw by certain inquietudes, wherein he was from time to time, the pain, he ſuffered to ſurmount the ſhame of being become amorous, after he had renounced ſo dangerous an Engagement by Oaths, which ought not to end but with his Life. As I one day encouraged him my ſelf in his amorous Humor, to the Triumph of ſo Noble

ble a Deſign, and told him that it was his Glory in this Conjuncture, to vanquiſh all the Obſtacles thereof; he fetcht a deep ſigh, and in an aſtoniſhment and dolor, which permitted him not to anſwer at that moment, I heard a little after, that he ſaid with a redoubled ſigh: "Ah! "how feeble one is, when one is "amorous. I was not ſurprized at this motion of Reaſon, the *Spaniards* are People of an habitual reflection, which makes them reaſon without thinking thereon; and it is their Gravity to make more known the motions of their Heart by exclamations, than by words. This natural tranſport made me fear a cooling of his Paſſion for the Lady, who began to be more tractable.

We were at *St. Cloud*, at a great Treat, which Monſieur *De Narb* gave us at his fine Houſe. This Meeting breathed nothing but Joy; and ſearching all, that might be to eaſe his diſcontent; I ſpake of the pleaſures, which the Heart of the Preſidenteſs prepared for him, that I having perceived her fair Humour, by the return of her Paſſion, he had room to produce thereof conſequences fully happy.

Whatever certainty I gave him of his Happineſs, he appeared to me very moderate, and told me, for to anſwer my ſurprize, That his ardor had been inutil; that having ſuch cruel Rivals of his Love to combat, as the Hatred, Contempt, and Rage of an irritated Woman, he had framed himſelf a Philoſophy to triumph over

over them in time by patience, and that he hoped much better to bend the Heart of the Lady, by the long perſeverance of a *Spaniard*, than by the furious violence of a *French man.* "All "theſe reflections, *ſaid I to him*, "proceed not from an Heart tru- "ly amorous, nor ſuch an one, "as yours has appeared to me; "this is a Moral, whereof I can "neither comprehend the auſteri- "ty, nor the delicacy. Do you "think to love and hate, when "you pleaſe, and to be the Ma- "ſter of two Paſſions, which "with ſo much Tyranny ſway "the Will? Diſabuſe your ſelf, "My Lord, of a preſumption "ſo *Chimerical*, and you ſhall not "take it ill, that I tell you, That "this is rather of the temper and "flegm of your Country, than

" an effect of your Reaſon; Love " and Reflection never had Com- " merce together. Be conſtant " in your Reſolutions; I will not " tell you, that you are entirely " loved, but I dare well aſſure " you, that the Heart of the " Fair One ſuffers ſtrange combats, " and from whence according " to all appearances you will gain " an illuſtrious Victory. Think " ſeriouſly on my Advices, I will " ſee her this Evening; and ac- " cording to the diſpoſitions, " wherein I left her the laſt time, " you may hope much, perhaps " even more than I think for.

Fortune willing by a thouſand croſs grain'd Rancounters this day to trouble an Adventure, which was caprichious enough of itſelf, for to neglect nothing in it, I ſurmounted, as much as was poſ-

ſible

ſible for me, the Obſtacles that oppoſed themſelves to the perfect Felicity of the Marqueſs of *Medina*. Not being able then to ſuffer any longer the delay thereof, I prevented the Hour of Viſits, that ſhe was to receive this day: I fiercely accoſted the Lady; whom I found reading the *Sonnet*, and with the expreſſion whereof, ſhe told me, ſhe was only taken. "An Heart, Madam, "ſenſible, as yours, *replied I to* "*her*, is yet more of the myſtick "ſenſe. Seeing my ſelf alone with her, and in an occaſion ſo favourable for expreſſing to her the laſt Sentiments of my Friend, I ſaid to her with a moving Air: "In what manner, Madam, do "you deſire the moſt ſenſible "and moſt tender Man in the "World not to love you? And

" how do you think, he can grant,
" what you ſeem to deſire of him,
" ſeeing in your Eyes Darts,
" which ſeem to ſpeak in his be-
" half, and which ſtrongly ſup-
" port his Paſſion againſt your
" Will. If you would have him
" obey you, ceaſe to have ſo
" many Charms; for appearing
" ſo amiable as you are, one
" would be culpable not to love
" you. Alas! Madam, with ſo
" many Beauties that you poſſeſs,
" how well would a little Love
" become you? It would not be
" from this day that you would
" reſent the ſweetneſs, it inſpires.
" Be not then any more cruel or
" inſenſible, all the World praiſes
" your Humanity; pray, finiſh
" theſe Rigors, which ſo long
" have rendred unhappy the moſt
" paſſionate of Lovers. His Con-
ſtancy

" ſtancy deſerves to be recompen-
" ſed; and when I ſhall tell you, that
" I am a continual Witneſs of the
" reſpect and deference with which
" he ſubmitted to your Contempt
" and Hatred; you cannot any
" longer, Madam, forbear be-
" ginning his Happineſs, ſince it
" depends only on you, and making
" him comprehend, that your ſe-
" verity was rather a proof of the
" Fidelity of his Love, than an
" effect of your Vengeance.

" Behold, Madam, the earneſt-
" neſs, wherewith I ſerve my
" Friends. God preſerve you;
" let me be charged with the like
" Intereſts, in caſe Heaven ſhould
" change the Humour, wherein
" you are. We ought to fear all,
" Madam, and principally the
" Revolutions of our Heart;
" think of it ſeriouſly for your

" ſelf, it is the only important
" Advice, that I have left to give
" you, make uſe of it, I conjure
" you, whilſt you may.

I retired with a feigned and diſſembled inquietude, to the end I might think of a laſt Stratagem, that might crown the work of my Cares, and entirely decide the good Fortune of the *Spaniard*. I found in fine an expedient, which ſeemed to me infallible, but it was uſeleſs; for in the moment, that I propoſed to my ſelf all the turnings thereof, one came to tell me, That a Lacquay of my Lady the Preſidenteſs was to ſpeak with me; I ſent for him into my Chamber, where with an underſtood ſmile he gave me this Letter:

The

The LETTER of the Preſidenteſs of ———, to the Marqueſs of ———.

I Sigh in telling you, that it is an extreme Unhappineſs, when our Sex is in a neceſſity of confiding in yours. Take not any advantage, I pray you, upon this word Confiding; *for I pretend to ſay nothing, that may give you any ſuſpition of my firmneſs: If I ſee you this Evening, and according to the humour wherein I ſhall be, perhaps I ſhall explain my ſelf of the reſt.* Good Day, My Lord Marqueſs, *&c.*

Afterr

After I had read the Letter, I ſent back the Lacquay, telling him only by word of mouth, I would wait upon her at the time, ſhe appointed me. A Letter, ſo myſterious, as hers, required reflection for to anſwer it formally. After I had employed ſome moments therein, that we might lay our Heads together, I went to the Marqueſs of *Medina*, for to aſſure him of the triumph of his Conſtancy; but I was amazed, when it was told me at his Houſe, That he had been obliged to follow the Marqueſs *De la Fuente*, who was gone in haſt to *Cambray*, to rejoin the Count of *Fonſaldaign*, for ſome Affairs of the *Low-Countries*. It behoved to expect his Return, and in the mean time to entertain the happy diſpoſitions,

ſ poſitions, whereof he had yet had but feeble and uncertain Ideas.

The Dutcheſs of ----, and the Marchioneſs of ----, had asked me this very day to ſhew them the Comedy of the *Fleece*, which was then new. I granted them it, and the Preſidenteſs, who had made the Match, told me, That if I would, I might comprehend alſo therein the Marqueſs of *Medina*. I was very glad, ſhe prevented the propoſition, I would have made to her thereof; but the Joy was much moderated, when ſhe ſaw me come back alone, and that I told her the cauſe of his Journy. She asked me many Queſtions concerning this unforeſeen departure; and I not being able to tell her, but what he had writ to me thereof himſelf,

ſelf, ſhe would ſee the Letter, to know if I were faithful to her. Her inquietudes gave me explications of an Heart ſo impatiently amorous, that whatever experience I had thereof by long acquaintance with the World, and with the Court, I confeſs to my confuſion, that to that day they were unknown to me; for ſhe made as many, and more different Scenes, than there were in the Comedy; ſo far, that the Dutcheſs laughing ſaid to her, "I believe you are in Love, Cou-"ſin. She replied with a rallying tone, "That it might well be ſo. And whiſpering me in the Ear, "of the rare Qualities of the "Marqueſs: That ſhe knew many Women, that had a great impulſe to love him. "Should not "you be of the number of theſe

"happy

" happy Ones? You would do
" him Juſtice, Madam, *replied I*
" *to her*; for you know he has
" not neglected any thing to me-
" rit this Honour.

" How preſſing you are, *ſaid*
" *ſhe to me*, Should it be ſo, durſt
" I declare it, without being aſſu-
" red of the continuance of his
" Love? To what Danger ſhould
" I expoſe my ſelf, being of the
" Humour that I am, if I ſhould
" tell you, that I love him, and
" that his Heart ſhould not ſay
" as much to mine.

" I anſwer to you, Madam,
" for the moment of his depar-
" ture, it will be your part at his
" return to explicate your ſelf
" therein; you ought no more
" to doubt of the ſincerity of his
" Sentiments; prepare for him an
" Heart tender, ſenſible, impati-
" ent

" ent, and amorous; a Truce of " the State, where Love will " Reign. Madam, it is a long " time, that you have loved in " ſecret, and that Reaſon has " made you ſuffer cruel pains. " Your Letter, although myſte- " rious, confirms it too much, to " doubt any more thereof.

" A beginning of Love, *ſaid* " *ſhe to me*, gives always a very " agreeable Idea of this Paſſion, " and preſſes us to advance the " Conſequences thereof in the be- " lief, that the Pleaſures increaſe, " according as our tenderneſs aug- " ments. You are neceſſary to " my Deſign, Marqueſs, and 'tis " to you only, that I can confide " this Secret of the Love, I have for " the Marqueſs of *Medina*. He " deſires, that I love him; I " have feigned a cruel reſiſtance,

" the

" the better to know his Paſſion ;
" it has appeared to me true and
" conſtant, aſſure him, that mine
" has for him theſe ſame two Qua-
" lities ; and that if he will exact
" of me a Revenge for the Pains,
" I have made him ſuffer, I am
" ready to give him Marks there-
" of, accompanied with a natural
" and ſincere Repentance.

Love, which inſpired into the Lady nothing, but thoughts of Union and Intelligence, augmented her deſire to poſſeſs a Good, which ſhe could yet do only in Idea. Abſence, an Enemy to the Paſſion of true Lovers, rendred her unhappy ; and ſhe would willingly have yielded to the Deſpair, that her impatience cauſed in her, if a Page, who watched his Return, had not ſpeedily advertized me thereof.

I left her, and went to the *Spaniard*, to teſtifie to him my Joy for his Arrival; and to felicitate him of the Happineſs, he ought to enjoy with tranquillity, by the veritable Confeſſion which the Preſidenteſs had made to me of her Love for him.

" O God! *replied he to me*, ſhe " love me? Can a three days abſence " have deſtroyed ſo great Senti- " ments of Rage, of Contempt, " and of Hatred in the Heart of " a Woman, who ſeemed only " to deſire my Ruin? I am of " a Nation, that will never be at " reſt, above all, in the Myſte- " ries of Love: To accept the " Heart of my Lady the Preſi- " denteſs of ----, without being " aſſured of a ſtronger Paſſion of " mine for her, is, what I can " never conſent to; ſpeak to her,

" I

" I beſeeeh you, that ſhe mode-
" rate her Ardor, that ſhe make
" reflection on my little Merit,
" and on the Hazards, that ſhe
" runs to declare herſelf againſt
" the Violence of Envy, and a-
" gainſt the Fatigue of a ſuſpici-
" ous and jealous Husband. Judge
" your ſelf, who counſel me to
" ſee her, if I ought not rather
" to abſtain from it, to avoid the
" trouble, my aſſiduities might
" cauſe to her Repoſe. I eſteem
" her, I reſpect her, this is all
" my Duty and my Inclination
" ordains me; and I am certain,
" that if you explicate to her
" theſe Sentiments in their purity,
" ſhe is too much illuminated,
" not to approve the Conduct
" thereof.

I could no longer hear theſe Maxims of ſo ſtrange and ſo new a Philoſophy; and I ſaid to him, interrupting him, That having been with two Men, the moſt gallant and moſt amorous in the World, I expected to ſee him far more paſſionate, and in an eagerneſs to enjoy the fruit of my pains, and my cares. "On the "contrary, *ſays he to me,* It is "that very thing, that has unde-"ceived my illuſion; I was not "a Perſon, ſuſpected to the Count "of *Fonſaldaign*, or to the Mar-"queſs *De la Fuente*; they in my "preſence freely diſcourſed upon "the Chapter of their Amours. "Hearkning, as the youngeſt, I "obſerved in their Diſcourſes ſo "much weakneſs, and ſo many "unhappineſſes, as it cauſed me "to pity them. A ſerious reflec-

"tion

" ction at that very moment ſei-
" zed my Spirit, which made me
" perceive my Error; and by a
" Reſolution full of Self-love, I
" ſware to live no more but for
" my ſelf, and to make my ſelf a
" Felicity exempt from the Trou-
" bles and Inquietudes, which I
" deplored in other Lovers.

" Good God! *ſaid I to him,*
" what an overwhelming of Sor-
" row for the poor Preſidenteſs,
" and what diſcontent for me,
" to have laboured ſo unprofita-
" bly to have rendred you happy;
" ſhe has without doubt already
" ſent to my Houſe; her impa-
" tience is not of proof for my
" delay; I go then to finiſh with
" her my Work, and tell her,
" but what? ------ that you love
" her no more? 'Tis an unpleaſing
" Complement to make to a fair
" Perſon,

" Perſon, and that has ſo much " Merit. Friend, pray, *ſaid I* " *to him*, change your Sentiments, " or if your Heart no more in- " ſpires to you Love for her, one " is very often contented with a " falſe appearance ; and having " the Wit and Complacence, that " I have always ſeen in you, you " will ſucceed therein, if you " pleaſe.

" No, *replied he to me :* The " matter is without remedy, there " are no more Charms powerful " enough to ſurprize and force " my Will ; I cannot diſſemble " my Reaſon, it ordains me no " more to Love, it is not any " more in my power to dare ask " it the contrary.

The time, that I loſt in unprofitable Supplications, obliged me to leave him for to go ſee the

the Presidentess. My little hast to speak to her of my Negotiation, perswaded her at first of the ill News, I brought her; and not being able to delay her any longer: "I must not flatter you, "Madam, *said I to her*, nor any "longer keep your mind in the "Error, that deceives you; the "Marquess of *Medina* esteems "you, he honours you; but his "Passion is ended, draw your self "the consequence of all these "propositions, my Science not "reaching so far, as to be able "to give you a favourable one. "What despair for me to have "been so funest a Guide to your "Designs? But also if I durst "make you a Reproach, that "ought to justifie the Fidelity "of my Ministery, I should tell "you, that I always feared, you "would

"would repent of having no "ſooner believed me, and that "you would know, but too late, "that the time, you employed in "unprofitable Rigors, and which "bring no benefit to the perſons, "that exerciſe them, would far "more agreeably have been paſ- "ſed in the ſweetneſs of Loving "and being loved.

"Although the indifference, the "Marqueſs of *Medina* has for me, "cauſes me a cruel dolor; I can- "not, *ſaid ſhe*, reſolve my ſelf "to the vengeance, that my Rea- "ſon inſpires to me; his Con- "tempt augments my tenderneſs, "and I feel even more love at this "moment for him, than I could "have conceived hatred: If you "will oblige me to ſee him, and "to acquaint him with, what paſ- "ſes favourable for him in my "Soul;

" Soul; I doubt not, but that " having so generous and so sen- " sible an one, as it has appeared " to me, he will be touched with " the Sentiments of my Heart, " and will himself approve the " choice, I have made of his " Person, to be the only Object " of my Passion. Act as a sin- " cere Friend; tell him all, that " Love inspires, when one loves " so sincerely, as I do. In fine, " since he follows only the Coun- " sels of Reason, perswade him " by so many Reasons, that at " least he render me the Return " of an Interview, that he here- " tofore desired of me; I desire " nothing more of him, and I be- " lieve him too civil and too " complacent to refuse me a thing, " so important to my Repose, " which, you have assured me on

" his behalf, is very dear to " him.

" I want neither affection nor " zeal, for you, Madam, *ſaid I* " *to her*, but from the manner, " that I have ſeen him diſengaged " from Love, there is all Reaſon " to fear; he is a Man that al- " ledges nothing, but ſtrength of " Mind, but Reflection, but Phi- " loſophy; it is very difficult to " vanquiſh ſuch ſtrong Sentiments, " eſpecially having only Reaſons " of Love to oppoſe againſt " them. In a word, Madam, " he is a *Spaniard*, firm, con- " ſtant, and reſolute, whom I " ſhould be unwilling to diſpleaſe, " by conſtraining that honeſt Li- " berty, wherewith he and I " live; but if you can mode- " rate your Paſſion, and content " your ſelf with an extraordinary

" E-

" Eſteem; perhaps this leſs re-
" ſplendant teſtimony may inſen-
" ſibly make us ſucceed; for tran-
" ſports often deſtroy the works
" of Patience.

" No, *ſaid ſhe interrupting me*;
" all muſt be hazarded. Patience
" and Love can never eſtabliſh
" a Commerce together in the
" Heart of a Woman truly amo-
" rous. I love him; 'tis to ſay
" much, for to dare undertake
" without meaſure.

In fine, whatever Reaſons my Prudence could alledge to her, to exempt me by honeſt Excuſes from any more perſecuting the *Spaniard*, I was forced to yield to hers, and to give her the ſatiſfaction of ſeeing him, for to repeat to him my Diſcourſes with the Preſidenteſs upon the Complements I had made her, on his

behalf. He hearkned to all my Diſcourſes coldly, without ever ſaying to me any thing, that was juſt, to what I expreſſed to him of the exceſs of her Love. Seeing my ſelf rebutted, I changed the Theme, and ſpake to him of the Prince *Balthazar*, who had been a little while dead, of whom he had the Honour to be very much loved. This Converſation was interrupted by a Gentleman of the Marqueſs *De la Fuente*, who came to fetch him to Dinner. I ſaw him no more that day, becauſe he told me, that an extraordinary Courier parted the morrow for *Spain*, and that he ſhould be buſied about his Diſpatches.

Since I had nothing favourable to tell the Preſidenteſs, and that naturally I have circumſpection enough

enough, not to acquaint my Friends with unpleasant Matters, I returned not to her, where she expected me.

Having lost the hopes of seeing me this day, her amorous impatience made her cruelly murmur; and being willing to forget all the Cares, that I had taken to satisfie her, there were no sort of outrages, which Amity converted into Rage and Fury, made her not to commit against me, naming me a thousand times the Author of the Delay of her Repose, and the cruel Enemy of her Felicity. She complained of me to all my Friends; and writing to me a Letter full of Reproaches, wherein I was honoured with the glorious Titles of Perjured, Traitor, and Infidel; she told me, That she had many

other Agents to ſollicite her Intereſts than me, that ſhe ſhould ſucceed therein without my participation; that the greateſt pleaſure, I could do her, would be never to meddle in it.

The continuance of this Command would have been as agreeble to me, as the ſpeedy end thereof was unpleaſant and incommodious. I made no difficulty to excuſe a Violence, which was no way injurious to me; becauſe I was true and ſincere, and all theſe Tranſports proceeded from the Heart of a Woman, that could not be reaſonable, becauſe ſhe was amorous and paſſionate. I lamented with ſenſible Sorrow, as a common Friend, the firmneſs of the one, and the obſtinacy of the other, and with the more reaſon, becauſe I ſaw no

no more expedient to be able to re eſtabliſh any Commerce of Society.

She acted in fine alone; and making uſe of the confidence of this dear Domeſtick, ſhe writ Letters to him, wherein ſhe expreſt her Love in terms ſo conformable to the Sentiments, ſhe would inſpire to him, that unleſs he were become inſenſible, it was impoſſible to be able to reſiſt the obliging manner, with which ſhe deſired of him only an Interview. He would have refuſed it her, if by good hap, mauger the expreſs Command ſhe had given me, never to meddle with her Intereſts, I had not been preſent with him at a time, when he received a Letter to that purpoſe. I obliged him by many Reaſons of

Honour to grant her one at the Queen-Mothers, whither ſhe often went: Although ſhe ſaw little facility of being able to ſpeak to him in all the liberty, that ſhe deſired; the Paſſion, ſhe had to ſee him, made her accept the offer thereof, for to hope for another more commodious elſewhere. Knowing, that it was a put-off; ſhe rebutted not at it, and made uſe of the Rendevouz, even more, than the reſpect of the place could permit her. The moment of Joy, which this Converſation gave her, augmented in her the deſire to continue it by Letter; although the Marqueſs for to make all Commerce ceaſe, never anſwered them, but with Thanks by Word of Mouth, wherewith he charged the Bearer, who every time employed all

all his Addreſs, to oblige him to ſomething more, but he excuſed himſelf always upon urgent Affairs, wherein the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador employed him.

The Preſidenteſs, not being able to be any longer pleaſed with ſuch a Complement, blamed him ſtrongly, for that without doubt he neglected to perform well his Devoir; and menacing to recompenſe him for his paſt Services, wherewith ſhe was more ſatisfied, he bethought himſelf, as he had much Wit, of a Commerce with a young Man of his acquaintance, who had belonged to *Voiture*, who writ very agreeably; he gave him knowledge of his Miſtreſs, and making uſe equally of the ſweetneſs, he received from my Lady Preſidenteſs, there was no ſort of Paſſi-

on, wherewith he expreſt not to her the Love of the *Spaniard*, and the acknowledgment, he conſerved for hers; but for the Converſations, ſhe always asked of him, he made her ſo well comprehend the importance of refuſing them to her for her Repoſe, and his, that ſometimes ſhe was of his Opinion; but ſhe alſo returned to her deſire, and would have him ſpeak to her in particular. This falſe Commerce continued ſome time, with much ſatisfaction on the part of the Lady, and much more of theſe Drolls, through her great Liberalities, till ſuch time, as I being well re-eſtabliſhed with her, fully diſabuſed her, and by the falſeneſs of the Writing, and by that of the Sentiments of the Marqueſs of *Medina*, whoſe inſenſibility

bility for Love put him in an Oblivion of all that was paſt.

"The interruption of your "Letter, *ſaid I to her*, Madam, "has ſo much augmented the "Eſteem, he has always conſer- "ved for you, and whereof he "renews the aſſurance by my "Mouth, that he is perſwaded, "that you will commend his "Conduct, and that his proceed- "ing will have of you a favour- "able acknowledgment, when "you will do him Juſtice.

"You conclude then, *ſaid ſhe* "*to me*, that I ought no more "to love him; if he eſteems me, "as you aſſure me, I muſt alſo "eſteem him; and according to "the Philoſophy of my Heart, "and of my Reaſon, Love fol- "lows cloſe after Eſteem, the "one is not without the other.

"Your

" Your Reaſoning is falſe, " Madam, it is intereſſed, it too " much flatters your Paſſion, it " is not the ſame with that of " the Marqueſs of *Medina*; he " eſteems you infinitely; but his " Eſteem produces not in him " any appearance of Love for " you.

I had not ended theſe words, when ſuffering her ſelf to be carried away by the motions of a new Paſſion, ſhe had fainted under it, had ſhe not ſweetned the Rigour thereof by Tears and Sighs, wherewith indeed I was ſo touched, that I offered to try a laſt effort upon the Spirit of the *Spaniard*, for to perſwade to him the relaxation of ſo auſtere a Vertue.

When

When we ſucceed not in the Affairs, we undertake for our Friends, we muſt at leaſt teſtifie to them an earneſtneſs therein, whereby they may be convinced of the rectitude of our intentions. Since the Preſidenteſs always doubted of my Fidelity, and was even become ſo far incredulous, as to be perſwaded that I made ill uſe of her Paſſion; I writ to him at that very moment, and in her preſence, for to deſire of him one hour of his leiſure, in the place I ſignified to him.

He ſent me word, That he actually received News from *Spain,* and that he was going to communicate them to the Ambaſſador, and that afterwards I ſhould diſpoſe of him, as I pleaſed; that beſides he had ſomething

thing to tell me, that would without doubt give me Joy. I began to reliſh it before-hand, and to inſpire into the Lady an hope, that perhaps he might be become amorous. This feeble imagination flattered her Grief, while it was augmented through an impatience to know the truth thereof.

I left her with the Dutcheſs of --------, and the Marchioneſs of --------, who took her to the *Court*, to diſſipate the pain of the Head, which ſhe feigned to them, to be diſpenſed with from Walking.

In the mean time I looked all about for the *Spaniard*, without finding him; it is true, I precipitated a little too much the hour, I had preſcribed him. At laſt we met by chance; I got into

into his Coach, and we followed theſe Ladies. I yet ſpake to him of nothing, although he had asked me, What I deſired of him? He drew out ſome Letters, telling me, That he was going to give me the Joy of the Marriage of his Siſter the Counteſs of *Medina*, with the Marqueſs of *Verraguas*, and the Sorrow of acquainting me with his departure; that his Friends would abſolutely have him be preſent at the Ceremony, according to the Cuſtom of *Spain*; that he had already for a long time warded off this Blow; but that the Command of his Relations was too preſſing for him to diſpenſe with; that they expected his return with impatience; that he was going to put his Equipage in order, and that

in

in a little while we muſt ſeparate only in Body, being perſwaded, that our Union would not finiſh but with Life.

This unforeſeen departure ſurprized me, and took from me the deſire to continue the Walk of the Courſe. All our Pleaſures were moderated, during the few days he ſtayed; and I avow to you, that I entred into the Sentiments of the Love of the Preſidenteſs by thoſe, that my Amity renewed in me for him. The pain, we had to diſſemble our Affection both the one and the other, obliged us to retrench the exceſs of our Viſits; and not thinking it fit to ſay any thing to him of the continuation of the Preſidenteſs's Love, I put off the ſpeaking to him thereof till the morrow.

This

This moment being arrived, wherein was to be decided the good or evil Fortune of the Lady, I employed with my Eloquence all the light of my Genius, and my Reaſon to perſwade him for to ſee her, that it was eaſie for him to grant me the favour, I deſired of him, foraſmuch as his departure would deliver him from all engagement; that if he went away, and the Paſſion of the Lady ſtill continued, as there was much appearance, it would, he would ſee her in the fears of an inevitable Deſpair; that he ſhould feign for a moment to love her, for to ſatisfie her, and that this would not draw on any conſequence, becauſe there would be no other Witneſſes, but himſelf.

" How

" How evil an opinion would " you have of my Perſon, *replied* " *he to me,* and with reaſon, if I " gave you yet new Marks of my " feebleneſs: You are too much " illuminated, and your Reaſon " too much approves the motion " of mine, for to grant you a fa- " vour, which your Prudence " ſpeaks againſt in ſecret, and " which one ſollicits through your " Mouth. You are complacent, " officious, I blame not your ob- " liging humor, I commend it in " all other things; but pray, " take it not ill, that, when it acts " to perſwade me to love, my " deference be not ſo blind.

I went from him very well ſatisfied with his Reaſons, but much diſcontented, that I could not ſucceed in my Negotiation, ſince it was the laſt; and going

to

to the Preſidenteſs, ſhe well knew, that my Air, and my Countenance preſaged to her nothing happy for her Deſigns. "I know "not, *ſaid I to her*, Madam, if "what I ſhall tell you, will give "you as much joy, as I reſent "thereat diſcontent and pain: "The Marqueſs of *Medina* goes "for *Madrid*; his Relations call "him back, becauſe they marry "the Counteſs of *Medina*, his Si-"ſter: See a great Secret, which "without doubt you expected "not ſo ſoon, for to finiſh your "Troubles and all your Inquie-"tudes; and his Deſpair is ſo "great, becauſe he cannot van-"quiſh his Sentiments upon the "Chapter of Love, for to leave "you the Marks thereof, that he "believes he ſhall be inconſolable "the reſt of his days.

The

The Paſſion of the Lady, not ſatisfied with a Complement, the verity whereof ſhe ſuſpected, being made by another, ſhe made me promiſe her, that we would go the next day unto him, upon the pretence of his Retreat; that ſhe would ſurprize him, and know abſolutely, before he went away, his laſt reſolution touching the cruel refuſal of his Love, ſince ſhe had ſo much for him.

But his good *Genius*, having happily inſpired to him to take Poſt an hour before our Viſit, without ſaying a word thereof to any one, he avoided the incommodious explications, and which would however have been unprofitable, becauſe he was become a ſworn Enemy of Love, and yet more of Women, who all united againſt him, full of the Rage and Fury of the

the famous *Bacchides* in the Fable, would have ſacrificed him, as another *Orpheus*, to their Vengeance, had he not ſaved himſelf in *Spain*, where he now poſſeſſes at *Madrid* the chief Offices of the Court, and from whence I often receive Letters with Complements for our Ladies, and 'ſpecially for thoſe, that have been ready to die for Love of his Perſon.

FINIS.

Joseph Betten
Hs. Book.
April 10th 1791

Kings may
win Crowns but
Cannot Conker
Death